MONDAY
April 27, 2026
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 99
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

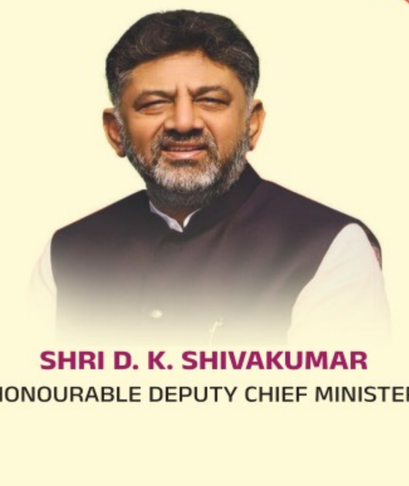
To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

SHRI SIDDARAMAIAH
HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Department of School Education & Literacy



SHRI D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
HONOURABLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

ADMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

You can enroll your children in any class.

This is the Government's
EDUCATION GUARANTEE

Karnataka Model School Education!!

3 In 3 years, ours will be the best government school system in the country!!!

FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ITS SCHOOLS:

Government schools offer more than free textbooks, uniforms, shoes, mid-day meals, and milk! **This year has seen a huge rise in results!! An even bigger improvement in government schools and colleges!!!**

8 STEPS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
THESE ARE THE EDUCATION GUARANTEES.

Guarantee 1
No more teacher shortage: one teacher per class up to Grade 5, and subject-wise teachers from Grade 6 onwards.

Guarantee 2
Medium of instruction as parents prefer: Along with Kannada, English medium is available in all schools; teachers receive special training to teach in English.

Guarantee 3
Free transport facility: KPS students are provided free transportation.

Guarantee 4
Digital education: Computer learning from Grade 1 and AI from Grade 3; computer teachers will be appointed in all KPS Schools within 3 years.

IN THE 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
A HISTORIC RISE IN EXAM RESULTS.

SSLC Exam-1
94.10%

2nd PUC Exam-1
86.48%

Guarantee 5
Art and physical education: Dedicated teachers for music, art, and physical education; recruitment of physical education teachers begins this year.

Guarantee 6
Relief from non-academic work: Separate staff for non-teaching tasks; teachers can focus only on teaching.

Guarantee 7
Monitoring learning quality: Lesson Based Assessment system to track each child's progress, and mandatory parent–teacher meetings every two months.

Guarantee 8
Skill Education and Competitive Examinations training: Skill Education from Grade 6 and special coaching for competitive examinations.

When are these changes being introduced?

Some key changes will take effect starting this year itself, and you will begin to see the transformation within 2–3 years.

What is our five-year goal?

Our government school system will be the best in the country! **This is our guarantee!!**
Over 5 million children will enroll in government schools! **This is our resolve!**

ಪೋಷಕರ ಧ್ವನಿ

We welcome all your suggestions
We seek everyone's support and welcome suggestions from education experts, organisations, and parents on this Karnataka model of education reforms. Your suggestions will help us improve our services and address internal and external challenges.

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

Better learning
A Brighter future

What is the new KPS concept? Scan here!

To share your views and suggestions...
Email: edkarnataka@gmail.com | WhatsApp Number: 94489 99314

ShalaShikshanaKarnataka

J BG-BGE

MONDAY
April 27, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 99

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

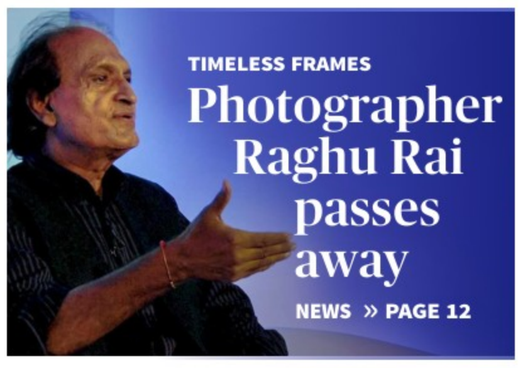
To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

LAST LEG IN BENGAL

PM focuses on Matuas, Mamata slams SIR deletions

NEWS » PAGE 11



TIMELESS FRAMES

Photographer Raghu Rai passes away

NEWS » PAGE 12

CONTRASTING WINS

GT crushes CSK, KKR pips LSG in Super Over

SPORT » PAGE 15

Trump safe after shooting in Washington; man held

An armed person stormed the lobby outside the White House Correspondents' Dinner; the U.S. President says he was the target of the attack; Modi expresses relief over Trump's safety

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A man armed with guns and knives stormed the lobby outside the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner attended by U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday night, charging toward the ballroom in a chaotic encounter with Secret Service agents as guests dived under tables at the sound of shots being fired.

The President was uninjured and was rushed off the stage. U.S. law enforcement said the sole suspect has been detained and will face charges on Monday in federal court.

Video posted by Mr. Trump showed the suspect running past security barricades as Secret Service agents ran toward him. One officer was shot in a bullet-resistant vest but was recovering, officials said. The gunman was tackled to the ground and was not injured, the police said. Mr. Trump later said he believed he was the target of the attack.

The police believe the assailant, Cole Tomas Allen (31) from California, opened fire and acted alone but did not say who was his intended target or describe a motive.

World leaders expressed shock over the incident with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he was "relieved to learn that President Trump, the First Lady and Vice-President are safe and unharmed".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
IRAN MINISTER IN PAKISTAN
» PAGE 14

Security breach

While several grievous situations have arisen during the two-time U.S. President's poll campaigns, Saturday's incident is the first during Donald Trump's time in office

REUTERS

Taking cover: U.S. President Donald Trump being escorted out after shots were fired during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on Saturday night.

SERIES OF INCIDENTS

June 18, 2016: A teenager was arrested after attempting to **wrestle a gun** from a police officer 'wanting to kill' Mr. Trump at a campaign rally in Las Vegas

November 5, 2016: Days before the presidential election where Mr. Trump won his first term, he was briefly **rushed offstage** during a rally in Reno, Nevada, after someone in the crowd shouted 'gun'

July 13, 2024: Mr. Trump was **shot at** during a presidential campaign in Butler, Pennsylvania, with a **bullet grazing his ear**

Sept. 15, 2024: Mr. Trump was allegedly the target of an **'assassination attempt'** by an intruder at his Florida golf club

Disqualify all seven defecting MPs, AAP tells RS Chairman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Sunday submitted a petition to Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan seeking the disqualification of seven MPs who have quit the party and merged with the BJP. Addressing the press, Sanjay Singh, leader of the AAP in the Rajya Sabha, said the move by the Raghav Chadha-led group was against the provisions of the anti-defection law.

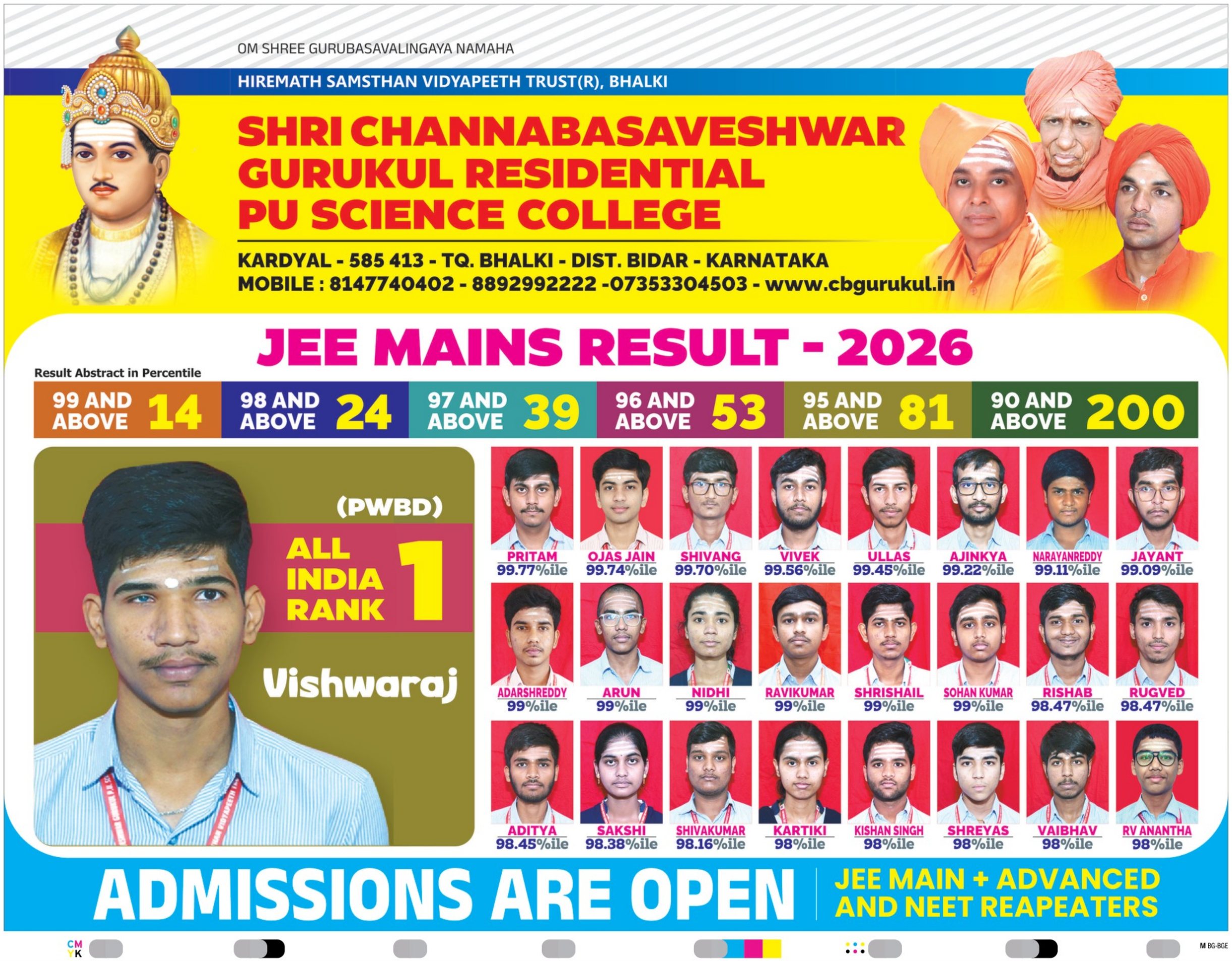
The party urged the Chairman to terminate their membership, underlining that they were elected to the Upper House on AAP ticket but decided to leave the party and join the BJP. On Friday, Mr. Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikram Sahni, and Swati Maliwal quit and merged with the BJP.

The AAP has 10 members in the Upper House. The defecting group argues it has the required two-thirds strength to avoid disqualification. The AAP, meanwhile, has argued in its petition that the law requires the "original party" to merge and, in this case, the AAP has not taken such a call, which makes a case for their disqualification.

"After consulting constitutional experts and seeking legal opinion from Kapil Sibal [Rajya Sabha member and senior Supreme Court lawyer], I have sent a petition to the Chairman requesting that the membership of these members be terminated as per the 10th Schedule of the Constitution," Mr. Singh said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

EDUCATIONPLUS » 4 PAGES



You can get anything done out of me for the team

Venkatesh Iyer, despite being an IPL winner, has found opportunities tough to come by at his new team Royal Challengers Bengaluru. But the 31-year-old remains in good spirits, and considers the chance to play for RCB an important step in his cricketing development

K. MURALI KUMAR

INTERVIEW

Venkatesh Iyer

N. Sudarshan

At the Indian Premier League mini auction ahead of the 2026 edition, Venkatesh Iyer, at ₹7 crore, was Royal Challengers Bengaluru's costliest buy. But the 31-year-old has played just one out of RCB's seven games so far – as an Impact Player in the six-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals.

To his immense credit, the all-rounder is not losing sleep over it. Defending champion RCB is a well-settled outfit, and the fact that it is currently second in the table provides very little room for tinkering.

In a way, it is representative of Venkatesh's own IPL career arc. Bought at a base price of ₹20 lakh, he played a stellar role in Kolkata Knight Riders' run to the IPL final in 2021.

The subsequent year, his value zoomed up to ₹8 crore, and he was part of KKR's IPL-winning team in 2024.

Ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction, he was released but bought back by KKR for a whopping ₹23.5 crore. But after just one season, KKR let go of him again, and he has now found a haven at RCB.

The Madhya Pradesh cricketer spoke to the media about his journey so far, the evolution of T20 cricket, sharing a dressing room with Virat Kohli and more. Excerpts:

How has the change been from KKR to RCB? Did you take time to settle down?

Being a professional, it's my duty to blend into whatever set-up I am in. But I spent a lot of time at KKR, learnt a lot of things. I'd be lying if I say that I don't have any emotional connection to them. But as professional cricketers, you are signing up for this. Whenever you enter an auction, there is an opportunity for you to play for any team. In this case, I am extremely happy to play for RCB because who does not want to. With the kind of fans, the atmosphere at Chinnaswamy [Stadium], to share a dressing room with one of the greatest icons in sporting history, and with a dear friend in the captain as well. With my skill-set, I know that I can contribute, and if given an opportunity, I will put in my best.

How hard is it for someone like you, who has won the IPL and done well, to stay motivated for that one playing opportunity?

It is hard to be honest. But I'm a practical person. When I look at the team, I know that there's a realistic chance that I can be benched and that's okay. That's the beauty of this game. It shows you so many things. But it's extremely important to stay motivated because you can easily get desperate and lose your work ethic. So I train my mind in such a way that I'm going to play every game. With the Impact Player [rule], anything can happen. I've always lived my life in a way that I compare myself with where I was yesterday. I have had a great time over the past few years. I'm married now. I have a family. So all these things kind of add to it. No one can take away what I have achieved till now. At the same time, you have to keep working hard, keep creating an impact on the coaches to get that opportunity.

What's the advice you are getting from Dinesh Karthik?

DK is someone who believes in a lot of hard work because he's done that himself. His coaching agenda is based on hard preparation, and that's what he keeps us motivated through. It's important to understand it is very tough to be a batting coach and mentor in a set-up like RCB. You have someone like Virat Kohli who has achieved feats that no one can imagine. And you have a fresher in the form of a Vihaan Malhotra walking in. DK has to take care of both, and the overseas players. Working with him, one thing I've understood is how to be flexible when it comes to your batting – how I can assess situations, be smart in terms of staying ahead of others, and combine that with total hard work. Then, the results will take care of themselves. And even if they don't, there won't be any regret.

One year you go for ₹23 crore, then you are let go of, and then you are picked up for ₹7 crore by another franchise. How easy or hard is it to process all of this?

There will be days when you think if I had a good year last season, my bank account would go up by another 24 crores. But you're signing up for it. There was amazing communication between me and Abhishek Nayar [at KKR], who wanted to release me. He told me what the team required, and you can get anything done out of me if it's good for the team. When I hang up my boots, all I would think about is how many titles my team won.

People won't remember records. Some may, but only from the cricketing fraternity, not those in your society. In Indore, there is a place called Rajwada. When RCB won last year, people were dancing there. It goes to show how important the victory of a team is. When I got released [from KKR], I did feel bad. Money is money. But as long as I understood that it was going to be better for the team, I had to be okay with it.

At KKR, you first had a lot of success opening. Then you shifted a bit down. Did that have an impact?

I've had very good records batting in the middle-order as well. I had a couple of 400-plus seasons (404 runs in 2023 and 370 in 2024). I've even batted at No. 8. I've never had a preferred batting position, but Brendon McCullum pushed me to open. If you choose to bat in a particular position and there's no vacancy there, you're pushing yourself into a corner. That's something that I don't want to do because I believe in contributing in multiple facets of the game. If you restrict yourself to one, you've got to be bloody good at it. And that doesn't necessarily happen. So I want to give myself the maximum opportunity to contribute to the team, be it by batting at the top, in the middle, bowling a few overs, in leadership, or fielding.

What are your learnings from sharing a dressing room with Kohli?

He is extremely down to earth and humble. He's got that aura around him which never ceases to amaze people. It's an opportunity for you to take as many things from him as possible. Because, the situations that you have faced in life, that person has seen it 50 times more. Not just about the game, but fame, money, family. To see a complete person like that is nothing but inspiration. You see how he celebrates every wicket. You see him running. You never see him jogging on the field. He sprints. That's all the more reason for you to increase your fitness, intensity and be on top of your game. Virat Kohli improves each and every individual in the team through his actions.

T20 cricket has evolved. At RCB, what are the kinds of conversations that you have had about adding to your skill-set?

The game has definitely changed from when I started to where it is right now. You're seeing big scores. And you're seeing bowlers bringing in new types of deliveries. But one thing that hasn't changed is the way the game is being assessed. If you're smart, then you'll be assessing the game differently. Every team has amazing talent. Six-hitters, conventional cricketers, fast bowlers, spinners, fielders, captains, you name it. One thing that will always keep you ahead is how smart you are and how you adapt to pressure. And that is what the conversation is all about – how to assess quickly and how to adapt to the conditions.

A lot of runs are being scored, so there's more pressure on bowlers to defend. But everyone is working extremely hard to hit those fours and sixes. People easily say 'It has now become a batter's game, that they are scoring 230 and 240 every time'. But there is so much hard work behind hitting those boundaries and sixes. People spend so much time practising. I always give this example: No one has been able to decode Sunil Narine till now. He's still bowling four overs for 30 runs. On his worst day, he gives 40. For others, it is a great day if they go at 40. So, if people have the talent, and keep up their competence, it's definitely a level playing field.

In terms of evolution, we are seeing relay catches more regularly. How much has elite athleticism changed things?

That has now become step one. It is no longer about how you are hitting or how you are bowling. It's now about how fit you are. This is something people have started to consider in basic coaching as well. In my mind, I can actually bowl 150 kmph. But if I am not fit enough to do that, it will just be a thought and it will just be in the interviews.

So the game has reached a point where you are looking at potential which can be achieved only through apex fitness routines.

It has to be combined with investment. And by investment, I mean investing in a nutritionist, a trainer, a physio. And those investments in the long run will give you rewards in terms of your performance.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu

When we marvel at the temples of South India, this coffee table book **'Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu',** gently guides us through their story - tracing the birth, growth and transformation of this timeless art form. Tracing its modest origins from the times of the cave dwellers to its artistic and colossal rise in the hands of the Mauryas, the Chalukyas, the Pallavas, Pandyas and Cholas, this exhaustive volume also explains the various facets of temple architecture with the help of 250 vivid images by J. Ramanan and over 75 illustrations.

NEW ARRIVAL

LAUNCH OFFER

~~₹3999~~
₹2999

250 Vivid images
75 Illustrations

*Shipping chareges extre | Terms and conditions apply

PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE

For bulk booking and enquiries, contact us at bookstore@thehindu.co.in or 1800 102 1878
scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THBookStore

‘Single investigating officer will probe cases and counter-cases’

The State police chief’s order comes after repeated lapses by field officers and strong observations by the High Court of Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant move aimed at streamlining criminal investigations and ensuring legal compliance, State Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem has issued a standing order, laying down a standard operating procedure for handling investigation into cases and counter-cases. This follows repeated lapses by field officers and strong observations by the High Court of Karnataka.

The standing order mandates that all case and counter-case matters – defined as disputes arising from the same incident involving rival parties – must be investigated by a single investigating officer (IO). Authorities noted that multiple instances had surfaced where separate officers handled related cases independently, leading to contradictions and legal setbacks.

This directive is necessitated by a recent High Court ruling, where the court quashed proceedings citing improper investigation by different officers in linked cases, and said: “The State shall henceforth ensure that a case and counter case shall be investigated by the same IO.” The order by Mr. Saleem quoted the High Court.

Karnataka DG and IGP M.A. Saleem FILE PHOTO

This move is seen as an effort to reduce procedural errors that often weaken prosecution cases

Once the IO takes up the investigation of both the case and counter cases, he shall submit a requisition to the court concerned that the cases are of a case and counter case nature; accordingly, he is investigating both the cases.

The IO has been directed to file separate chargesheets while clearly mentioning the counter-case linkage, avoid premature filing of reports until both investigations are complete, except under exigent circumstances, and attach copies of both police reports with each chargesheet for judicial clarity.

Protocols

The order also lays down specific guidelines for cases involving the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. If one of the cases invokes provisions of the Act, both the case and counter-case must be investigated by a DySP/ACP-level officer.

Similarly, if one case is transferred to specialised wings like DCRE or CID, the counter-case must also be transferred to the same unit to maintain consistency.

Supervision

The order places responsibility on unit heads, including Commissioners and Superintendents of Police, to ensure strict compliance. Regular supervision and review of such cases has been made mandatory.

The directive warns that departmental action will be initiated against officers if the case and counter-case investigation are handled by different IOs.

This move is seen as an effort to reduce procedural lapses that often weaken prosecution cases in court. By enforcing a unified investigation approach, the State police aim to improve the quality of evidence, ensure fairness, and uphold judicial expectations, a senior official said.

Dacoity linked to college clash; 6 held from Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A dispute at a college took a serious turn after six persons were arrested in connection with a dacoity and assault case by Konanakunte Police.

The case came to light following a complaint filed on April 18 by a Kerala-native student residing in Pavamana Nagar. The complainant, along with six other students, was staying in a rented house while pursuing studies at a private college. According to the complaint, on the night of April 17, six unidentified persons unlawfully entered the house, assaulted the occupants using a knife, causing bleeding and injuries, and threatened them. The accused then robbed ₹10,000 in cash, four mobile phones, two laptops, and a two-wheeler. The police investigation revealed that the attack was linked to a prior clash between two groups of students from neighbouring States.

Acting on credible information, a police team apprehended the six accused on April 21 in Coimbatore the district of Tamil Nadu. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to their involvement. The police stated that, except Abinesh, the others had completed their education and were employed. None of them had prior criminal records.

Police told to exercise restraint during festivals, avoid use of force

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State police headquarters has issued a directive to all field units across the State, instructing personnel to refrain from using force and to behave courteously with the public during fairs, festivals, and law-and-order duties.

The order comes following observations by the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) in connection with a complaint related to an incident during a temple chariot festival in Doddaballapur in February 2025. According to the complaint, police personnel allegedly assaulted roadside vendors, used abusive language, and damaged their goods while clearing shops during the Sri Venkataramana Swamy Brahmarathotsava. The complainant sought action against the police officials who were involved in the incident.

Inquiry

An inquiry conducted by the Bengaluru Rural Police revealed that the road where the chariot procession was held was narrow and crowded, where nearly 25,000 to 30,000 people had gathered for the event. The police had reportedly made repeated announcements asking vendors to vacate to ensure smooth movement of the chariot. When some vendors failed to comply, shops were cleared to prevent obstruction. The report concluded that there was no evidence to substantiate allegations of assault, abuse, or destruction of property.

The KSHRC directed the Director-General of Police to issue strict instructions to ensure that police personnel avoid unnecessary force and maintain proper conduct with the public. FILE PHOTO

However, the complainant to the KSHRC submitted video footage showing the police using force in certain instances while clearing the road.

Taking cognisance, the commission observed that even minimal use of force in such situations was a matter of concern and could undermine public trust.

The Police Department has emphasised that any misconduct during public events will be viewed seriously

It directed the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police to issue strict instructions to ensure that police personnel avoid unnecessary force and maintain proper conduct with the public.

Acting on these directions, the Additional Director-General of Police (Grievances and Human Rights) has now instructed all Police Commissioners, Range Inspectors General, and Superintendents of Police, including Railway and KGF units, to comply strictly with the guidelines.

The Police Department has emphasised that any misconduct during public events would be viewed seriously, as it could affect the department’s credibility and amount to violation of human rights.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients, **Sri. Rangaswamy A.M. @ Rangaswamy Ankenahalli Manjegowda S/o Sri. Manjegowda & his wife Smt. Thejaswi S. @ Shankare Gowda Thejaswi, both r/a C312, Brigade Cosmopolis, Whitefield Main Road, B'lore - 66 are the joint and absolute owners of the below mentioned Schedule Villa.** Further on 8-4-2026 in Banaswadi Sub-Registrar Office, Bangalore, the Owners have misplaced/lost the Original Construction Agreement dated 19-7-2010 executed by M/s. Prestige Estate Projects Limited & Mr. Mohan Anand Garde & his wife Mrs. Sandhya Mohan Garde & to that effect, they have lodged Online police (Bengaluru City) complaint on 23-4-2026 (Lost report No. 2169215/2026). Any finder/or any person/s having any type of claim, may kindly return the above mentioned Original document or file objections to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of notice failing which, my client shall presume that the same is lost and shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims/ interest whatsoever from any person/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that **4304** Sq. feet UDS right, title, interest & ownership in Sy Nos. 2/1B and 2/1C in Whitefield Village, K.R. Pura Hobli, B'lore East Taluk & presently forming part of Municipal No. 1, 2, 2/1C & 2/1B, Industrial Area, Whitefield main road, Pattandur Agrahara, B'lore, earlier under the limits of BBMP, presently under GBA, in the form of a demarcated residential portion/plot bg No. **B-34** measuring on Eastern side: 75'02", on Western side: 75'02", on Northern side: 54 feet'11 "& on Southern side: 59'10", totally measuring 4304 sq. feet, along with Residential Villa bearing No. **B-34** in Type B consisting of Ground Floor & Two Upper Floors in **"PRESTIGE WHITE MEADOWS"** admeasuring 5576 sq. feet of SBA, Old BBMP Khatha No. 734/1/Villa No.34, E-Khatha PID No.7262421550 assigned by the GBA (Bangalore East City Corporation) Kadugodi Ward & bounded on the:

East by: Villa No. 35 in "PRESTIGE WHITE MEADOWS",
West by: Villa No. 33 in "PRESTIGE WHITE MEADOWS",
North by: Internal Access Road in "PRESTIGE WHITE MEADOWS" &
South by: Villa No. 41 & 42 in "PRESTIGE WHITE MEADOWS".

CHETHAN KUMAR N
Advocate, Tarka Legal,
No.15/1, 3rd Main, Sadashivanagar,
B'lore-80, (M) 78294 44449
chethangowda2015@gmail.com

THE HINDU GROUP

YOUR CAREER JOURNEY STARTS HERE

The 24th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling Fair 2026 brings you expert guidance on entrance exams, admissions, and career paths. Interact with leading specialists in Medicine, Engineering, UPSC, CET, NEET, CA, and CMA. Explore top colleges and make informed decisions about your future.

THE HINDU EDUCATIONPLUS career counselling fair ‘26
Karnataka

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Registration : 9:00 AM

May 3, 2026
Birla Auditorium
Birla Auditorium, Siddaganga Institute of Technology, BH Road, Tumakuru

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL STUDENTS

FREE CAREER HANDBOOK

To register, Scan the QR code or visit
newsth.live/CET2026PA

Platinum Sponsors
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (Set up by an Act of Parliament) | CA INDIA | PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY | REVA UNIVERSITY Bengaluru, India

Gold Sponsors
CMR UNIVERSITY | NAAC A GRADE | CHANAKYA UNIVERSITY Rooted in ideals • Ascending with ideas | EAST POINT GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS | HINDUSTAN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS CHENNAI | RAMAIAH College of Law AUTONOMOUS

Silver Sponsors
ACS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (A Unit of RajaRajeswari Group of Institutions) | ALLIANCE UNIVERSITY | ADICHUNCHANAGIRI UNIVERSITY | Credila The Education Loan Specialist | IIBS | idp INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS | JSS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY MYSURU | JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) MYSURU | KBNU KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY EDUCATING HUMANITY | KAMMAVARI SANGHAM GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS | Karnataka Bank | KLE Technological University | NITTE (Deemed to be University) Where there is space for every dream. | RAJARAJESWARI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION | SMVITM AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION | SOUNDARYA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE | SHANTHIVANA | SDM PUBLICATION TRUST (R), UJIRE | SHARNBASVA UNIVERSITY | SHAHEEN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS | VVCE

Associate Sponsors
Azim Premji University | ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (Deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956) | Mahindra University Global Thinkers. Engaged Leaders.

Regional Sponsor
KRISTU JAYANTI (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) A CMI INSTITUTION | BENGALURU | INDIA

For more details contact:
Bengaluru **97421 77743** | Mangaluru **94481 60126** | Mysuru **94488 71815** | North Karnataka **97314 00992**

How AI helped community-led development in Rajasthan

A project to improve water resilience in two Rajasthan districts strengthened existing government efforts by using AI to improve last-mile responsiveness; the application was also lightweight enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on frontline behaviour change and local coordination

Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee
Alan Nicol

India is in an artificial intelligence (AI) moment. Across agriculture, health, finance, and governance, the race is on to deploy AI-enabled services that reach the last mile. Chatbots answer farmer queries. Agentic tools navigate entitlement schemes. And advisory platforms push the right information to the right person (presumably) at the right time.

Many of these tools share a similar logic. While exceptions exist, they are often designed around the assumption that communities have an information deficit that AI can fill. But what if that's not all communities need?

In public services, the gap is not always between people and information. It is often between people and the local institutions meant to serve them. India's villages are shaped by the complexities of caste, class, gender, and land ownership. Numbers alone cannot track what actually makes an intervention work. Why a volunteer stops showing up, what makes a woman hesitate to speak in a Gram Sabha, and why an approved plan isn't being implemented rarely makes it back to the people designing and funding these programmes.

This is not because institutions don't want qualitative information. In many cases, they simply lack the means, time, and resources to consistently gather it at scale.

Different question for AI

The authors designed a pilot project, called AI4WaterPolicy, in the water-stressed Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan. And rather than deploy AI to push information outwards, the project used it to listen.

Working with a field partner, Centre for Microfinance (CmF), and technology partner Colectiv, an AI model conducted 352 interviews across 50 villages in six months. The team had trained the model using a brief of the programme context and the questions it needed to know.

The AI chatbot then held 20-minute WhatsApp conversations in Hindi and local dialects via voice notes or text with 'Pani Mitras' (community volunteer water champions), Panchayat leaders, and CmF's frontline staff. Follow-up questions were adapted to each respondent on the fly. The model finally translated anonymised transcripts and organised them thematically, after which the field and research team reviewed and validated them.

The answers revealed three things:

(i) **Pride in the results**: "Water level in my village, which was at 150 feet, has now come to below 100 feet. This is a matter of great pride for me";

(ii) **The double burden for women**: "I manage my family by waking up early, then I visit other women in the village to discuss water-related issues. After returning home, I resume my household work"; and

(iii) **Funding and approval delays**: "Because of delayed approval of proposals in the Panchayat department, we could not complete the work on time"

The project then deployed 'Pani Mitras' to address these issues. During the project's structured workshops to share and discuss findings with respondents, called 'Pause and Reflect' sessions, participants validated some interpretations and pushed back on others. Mainly, they said their limited understanding of Panchayat procedures and government schemes was a challenge.

In reply, CmF redesigned its training programme mid-cycle to add a Panchayati Raj orientation programme and structured workshops with block-level officials from rural development, agriculture, and water resources departments. This pivot was not part of the original plan. It happened because the AI model helped the project turn insights around quickly enough to act within the same programme cycle.

Follow-up interviews with 'Pani Mitras' three months after the workshops found that more than half of the community members had since engaged directly with government officials – something many had hesitated to do before.

They reported more confidence navigating scheme application processes and mentioned the feedback had prompted their Panchayat or department to act more quickly.

Technology must empower the human intermediary, like the community volunteer water champions in the AI4WaterPolicy project, rather than replace them. GETTY IMAGES

The AI4WaterPolicy pilot succeeded not just because of the algorithms used but also because its organisers budgeted time, funds, and people to return findings to respondents and co-develop follow-up actions

Listening with intent

There is an important distinction here: responsive systems and actively listening systems are not the same thing. The former takes community input as a signal and returns an answer. The latter is shaped by what it hears and the community moves from being a passive beneficiary to an active co-designer.

In this pilot, AI made active listening possible in three ways. First, a voice-enabled WhatsApp channel gave 'Pani Mitras' a private space to speak freely. As one respondent put it, "When a person is in front of you, you feel hesitant. On your own phone, there's no hesitation." Second, the AI model identified recurring themes across 352 conversations without requiring weeks of manual coding. Third, because the findings were synthesised within weeks, the implementing team could redesign training mid-cycle. Traditional monitoring can't easily provide such responsiveness.

The AI4WaterPolicy pilot succeeded not just because of the algorithms used but also because its organisers budgeted time, funds, and people to return findings to respondents and co-develop follow-up actions. CmF had also spent years working in these villages, identifying and training the 'Pani Mitras'. During the interviews, their staff facilitated access to shared devices for participants without smartphones, helped navigate connectivity problems, and ensured the 'Pause and Reflect' sessions were genuine deliberations. The AI could listen at scale precisely because human relationships had already created the conditions necessary for honest conversations.

Empower, not replace

The digital divide is real and manifests in gender, class, and caste-based differences, and any honest conversation about AI and the last mile must reckon with this reality. Technology must empower the human intermediary, like the 'Pani Mitras', rather than replace them. This was not a one-off pilot from Rajasthan. The approach strengthened and complemented existing government efforts by enhancing feedback loops and improving last-mile responsiveness. It was also lightweight enough to sit inside any large programme that depends on frontline behaviour change and local coordination.

Policies, programmes, and systems like Jal Jeevan Mission, VB-G RAM G, and sectoral extension systems all include such last-mile implementation.

(Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee is a Policy Engagement Specialist at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). S.Bhattacharjee@cgiar.org

Alan Nicol is a Principal Researcher at IWMI. A.Nicol@cgiar.org)

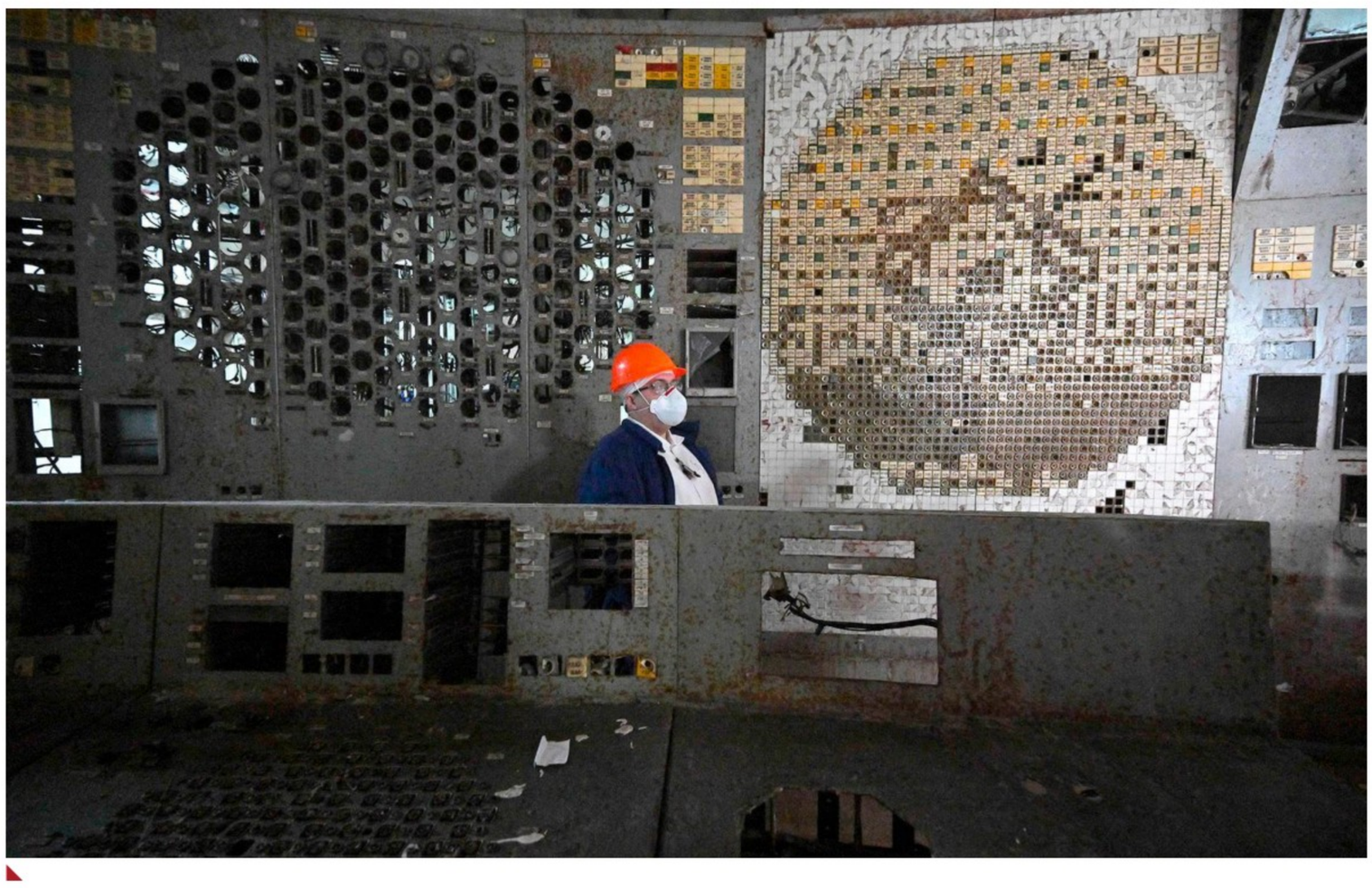
THE GIST

The authors designed a pilot project, called AI4WaterPolicy, in the water-stressed Sirohi and Pali districts of Rajasthan

The AI chatbot held 20-minute WhatsApp conversations in Hindi and local dialects via voice notes or text with 'Pani Mitras' (community volunteer water champions), Panchayat leaders, and CmF's frontline staff

The AI could listen at scale precisely because human relationships had already created the conditions necessary for honest conversations

BIG SHOT



A view of the reactor core mimic display, a.k.a. the mnemonic table, that was part of the SKALA computer system at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. By looking at the coloured tiles on the display, operators could quickly understand the distribution of activity across the core, helping them balance the reactor's power output and identify where heat was building up. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Neanderthal mystery

Q: How did the Neanderthals go extinct?

A: Pursuing the mystery of how the Neanderthals went extinct, researchers from the Universities of Cambridge and of Montreal have now asserted that climate change was not the primary reason. Instead, they have reported that *Homo sapiens* succeeded because of their better social connectivity whereas the Neanderthals' populations suffered the effects of poor social connections.

The findings, published on April 1 *Quaternary Science Reviews*, were based on habitat suitability modelling: using algorithms to estimate where ancient humans might have preferred to live based on simulations of the climate over 60,000 years.

Based on these simulations, the team said that both species maintained "core" regions in Spain and Italy, among other areas, that should have provided shelter and protection as the populations negotiated Marine Isotope Stage 3 — a time when the earth was cold even as its climate oscillated rapidly.

The researchers also said that these two groups rarely crossed paths: based on their estimated maps, the researchers said the species' ranges overlapped by less than 5% — a figure they said weakened the theory of "competitive exclusion", which claims that Neanderthals went extinct because *H. sapiens* outcompeted them for resources.

Scientist Svante Pääbo poses with a replica of a Neanderthal skeleton on October 3, 2022. AP

If the new findings are to be believed, Neanderthal groups in Eastern Europe were too isolated to survive demographic pressures, while *H. sapiens* benefited from superior networks along coastal migration routes. Ultimately, the paper concluded, the process in which *H. sapiens* replaced Neanderthals was "regionally differentiated", meaning it happened for different reasons in different locations.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

Honourable Prime Minister of India

JSW JFE Steel Limited

(Formerly Known as JSW Sambalpur Steel Limited)

FORGING AHEAD

STRONGER TOGETHER

LEFT TO RIGHT: Shri Jayanarayan Mishra, Hon'ble MLA - Sambalpur, Shri Tankadhar Tripathy, Hon'ble MLA - Jharsuguda, Shri. Rabi Narayan Naik, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, and Drinking Water of Odisha. Shri. Suresh Pujari, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management of Odisha, H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Japan to India, Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, GOI, Shri. Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Mr. Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group, Mr. Yoshihisa Kitano, President & CEO, JFE Holdings, Inc., Smt. Anu Garg, Chief Secretary of Odisha, Mr. Parth Jindal, MD, JSW Cement & JSW Paints and Chairman, JSW Dulux, Mr. Jayant Acharya, JMD & CEO, JSW Steel, Mr. Hiroyuki Ogawa, Board Director, JFE Steel Corporation.

JSW Steel and JFE Steel Join Forces to Power India's Steel Future – a 10 MTPA vision in Odisha.

A Landmark 50:50 joint venture between JSW Steel and JFE Steel, two of the world's leading steelmakers.

Located in Sambalpur - Odisha, the facility will scale from **4.5 MTPA to 10 MTPA** and beyond, creating thousands of jobs and reinforcing Odisha's position as a thriving industrial ecosystem.

A STEP FORWARD IN BUILDING A STRONGER, AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Lebanese towns asked to be evacuated by Israel

7 Israel's military issued evacuation orders for southern Lebanon on Sunday, ordering residents to leave seven towns that lie beyond the "buffer zone" it occupied before a ceasefire that has failed to bring a full halt to hostilities. A spokesperson for the Israeli military said that Lebanese armed group Hezbollah was violating the ceasefire and that Israel would act against it. REUTERS

Motorists penalised by Delhi Police during enforcement drive

11,800 The Delhi Traffic Police penalised over 11,800 motorists during a special three-hour enforcement drive conducted across the city, officials said. The intensive drive was carried out on Saturday across all traffic ranges and districts as part of efforts to curb congestion and enhance road safety. PTI

Area burned by the Otsuchi fires in Japan as of Sunday morning

1,373 hectares. Japan has deployed 1,400 firefighters and dozens of Self-Defence Force personnel to battle mountain blazes that have been raging in the north for five days, officials said on Sunday. Two more wildfires broke out elsewhere in the north — one in Kitakata city and the other in Nagaoka. PTI

Value of projects proposed by the Himachal government

5,400 in ₹ crore. Himachal Pradesh government has proposed projects of over ₹5,400 crore under the Urban Challenge Fund, said Public Works and Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh. In a meeting held in Delhi, he requested earmarking of ₹1,350 crore for the State as the Centre's share, a statement said. PTI

E-checkposts in coal-rich Singrauli to curb illegal transport

3 Three AI-powered e-checkposts have been installed in the coal-rich Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh to curb illegal transportation of minerals, enhance revenue and improve transparency, officials said on Sunday. Singrauli, situated in the northeast of MP close to Uttar Pradesh, is widely known as the "Energy Capital of India". PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

SIR pause on way to a billion electorate

The SIR has trimmed India's electoral roll by removing absent, shifted, dead, and duplicate names, leading to record turnout percentages across States despite shrunken electorates; while the exercise strengthens the accuracy of the roll, the challenge now is to ensure it remains inclusive and free of disenfranchisement

FULL CONTEXT

Akshay Rout

Tamil Nadu finished its single-day poll on April 23 with a record turnout of over 85%, surpassing the earlier best of 78.29% in 2011 and a huge 12% higher than the 73.63% turnout in the last Assembly election. The base for the turnout was a trimmed-down electorate of 5.67 crore. While factoring in the high-octane political contest and mobilisation, the turnout rate would arguably be lower if the State electoral roll had retained "ghost electors" – the dead, shifted, absent, and duplicate names – that existed as of October 2025, when the special intensive revision (SIR) kicked in. Similar trend is seen in West Bengal, with a turnout of 92.88% in the first phase. Assam, Puducherry, and Kerala also delivered record turnouts earlier this month, all following the pattern of shrunken electorates. Therein lies a story.

Before the turn

In the run-up to its 75th Foundation Day on January 25 last year, also called the National Voters' Day, the Election Commission (EC) announced a grand celebration 'in light of the fact that India's total electorate is approaching the 100-crore mark.' That was a well-made observation by available arithmetic. The electoral database then stood at 99.1 crore, including 21.7 crore young voters aged 18-29. The steadily rising electoral gender ratio had further jumped from 948 in 2024 to 954. With an estimated population of 1.4 billion, India went into the last Lok Sabha elections with 96.88 crore registered voters. International observers have long watched in awe the elephantine Indian electorate, with the United States a distant second and countries such as Brazil and Indonesia trailing far behind. As the SIR completed its second phase earlier this month, India's grand list of electors appears poised to be significantly reversing its advance, though it may still be celebrated for other reasons.

India's electorate has been growing constantly, keeping pace with population growth. The logic is simple: all citizens above the age of 18, unless otherwise disqualified, are to be included in the electoral roll of their respective constituencies, where they are ordinarily resident. Broadly estimated at 75% of the population, a billion voters would look natural in the case of a wholesome registration. Interestingly, the electorate has often grown faster; during the 1951-2021 period, the population grew fourfold, from 36 crore to 138 crore, while the electorate grew more than fivefold, from 17 crore to 91 crore.

Starting with 17.32 crore electors in 1951, India's electoral roll has swelled steadily year after year, except for minor aberrations after accounting for births and deaths by lakhs of ground-level staff. Each January, the country releases updated and revised electoral rolls based on a summary revision with reference to 1st January.

The SIR twist

But then came SIR 2025. The revision, which has already covered 13 States and Union Territories, including Bihar in the first phase, has disrupted the usual elector count based on the logic of growing population. In the 12 States and Union Territories where SIR was ordered on October 27 last year – spanning 321 districts and 1,843 Assembly constituencies – the number of electors has dropped to less than 46 crore from a base of 51 crore. All major States, such as Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh, have each reported a reduction of more than 10%.

Much of the downsizing is due to the removal of ASDD names (absent, shifted, dead, or doubly enrolled), purification being a basic purpose of any electoral revision. States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have a history of job-related migration, warranting the removal of names. The ASDD burden has also accumulated because the last SIR was conducted between 2002 and 2004.

In substantial consideration, SIR entails drafting a new roll, compared to annual revisions, which are corrections on the existing list. But notably, there are a sizable number of deletions on account of non-return of enumeration forms, non-traceability of persons, objections received through the designated Form 7, and, importantly, for failing the eligibility criteria stipulated for electors under the Constitution, determined through verification of documents.

With the burden of proof shifting to the citizen, for a sizeable section of the population, the SIR has been like re-earning the franchise.

Additions factored

During the SIR process, the trimming is most visible at the draft roll stage and is largely driven by ASDD factors. There is, however, some recovery on the way to the final roll, thanks to fresh enrolments. In Uttar Pradesh, the initial roll of 15.44 crore slumped to a draft of 12.55 crore, before rising to a final tally of 13.39 crore following substantial additions. Tamil Nadu started with a list of 6.41 crore, which fell to 5.44 crore in the draft roll, but the net final roll was of 5.67 crore electors.

In June last year, Bihar started the intensive revision with a base of 7.89 crore electors and ended up with a final roll of 7.42 crore, improving upon the published draft of 7.24 crore. West Bengal, however, has been a different case, with issues of logical discrepancies affecting the final roll and spilling over into politics and the streets.

Reverse journey

Close to 60 crore of India's electors have already gone through the SIR exercise. The aggregate number has declined by nearly six crores even after additions. The remaining 40 crore electors, spread across 23 States and U.T.s, are now preparing for the scrutiny. With standard extrapolation, by the time SIR is completed across the country, the size of India's electorate could fall to around 90 crore.

The stated goal of SIR is to ensure that all eligible citizens, including newly eligible youth and temporary migrants, are included in the electoral roll. The details of the post-SIR final rolls, especially the addition of new electors, bear testimony to this effort. But the activity missed the profile, drowned in the overwhelming narrative of deletion.

In recent years, inclusivity has been a key focus in electoral roll management, addressing gender disparities, improving youth cohorts, and ensuring that persons with disabilities, the third gender community, and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) are fully enrolled in a campaign mode.

Crux of democracy

India has prided itself on both the scale and quality of its elections over the last 75 years. The starting manifestation of both these is in the country's electoral roll. The litmus test for a credible election begins with the accuracy and completeness of the electoral roll and culminates in the general acceptance of the electoral outcome. Despite the scepticism from Western powers at the dawn of India's independence, the country has stood firm in sustaining an electoral democracy through credible and respectful exercise of the franchise. This is an outstanding fact, irrespective of the recent disputes over the electoral process and management. All interventions, including SIR, have to strengthen the cause.

Renew focus on inclusion

The SIR is not the answer to the alleged adulteration of demography by non-citizens or infiltrators, nor is the EC in charge of policing this part. However, the SIR has cured the electoral roll of its obesity, giving it a new look. The quantitative expansion of India's electoral roll has received a discernible pause.

It is now for election managers to ensure and provide all stakeholders with the confidence that the new slim roll is accurate and free of disenfranchisement. Concerns that the SIR process, in its uncompromising pursuit, should not strip people and groups of their democratic rights on technical grounds must not be seen as hostile.

After the high-profile focus on removing ineligible names, the EC should now invest its energy in reaffirming its celebrated resolve that no eligible voter is left behind.

(Akshay Rout is former Director General, Election Commission of India. Views expressed are personal)

A voter checks his name on the electoral roll after the Election Commission published West Bengal's post-SIR voter list in Kolkata on February 28. PTI

The SIR is not the answer to the alleged adulteration of demography by non-citizens or infiltrators, nor is the EC in charge of policing this part. But, SIR has cured the electoral roll of its obesity, giving it a new look

THE GIST

- India's electorate, which had steadily expanded faster than population growth, is now poised for a reverse trajectory, with numbers potentially falling towards 90 crore as the exercise progresses across the remaining States and U.T.s.
- The revision process, involving draft rolls, verification of documents, objections through Form 7, and non-return of enumeration forms, has in many cases shifted the burden of proof to citizens, making it akin to re-earning the franchise for sections of the population.
- Despite the dominant narrative of deletions, final rolls show recovery through fresh enrolments, reflecting efforts to include newly eligible youth, migrants, and underrepresented groups, even as discrepancies in some States continue to spill into politics and public debate.

Special drives push wrong way driving cases to five-year high

Data shows that cases booked for such violation in Q1 of 2026 are over 58% of those booked in the entire year of 2025

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

In the first three months of 2026, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) booked a whopping 1.78 lakh cases of wrong way driving, the highest number recorded in the first quarter over the past five years, data shows.

The data also shows that cases booked for wrong way driving in the first quarter of 2026 are over 58% of those booked in the entire year of 2025, which saw 3.03 lakh cases booked. The BTP had booked 1.87 lakh cases of driving against traffic in 2024, and about 1.44 lakh in 2023. However, these cases were much higher in 2021 and 2022.

A senior traffic police officer told *The Hindu* that the spike in numbers is due to special drives conducted over the past three months, but the actual number is much higher. Among the 1.78 lakh cases, the BTP recorded 68% through direct contact, highlighting the increased on-field crackdown on violators. "The spike in numbers does not mean that violations have increased, as they have historically been high. The rise in cases is due to increased enforcement," the officer said.

One of the issues BTP officials flagged is that the fine for wrong way driving, which in many cases causes fatal accidents, is just ₹500.

One of the issues BTP officials flagged is that the fine for wrong way driving, which in many cases causes fatal accidents, is very low: ₹500.

Long-term fix

BTP officials acknowledged that curbing wrong way driving requires a long-term effort with a comprehensive plan, as enforcement alone cannot resolve the issue.

"Curbing wrong way driving requires an understanding of infrastructure flaws, the reasons people use the wrong side, and the loopholes that allow commuters to do so," an officer said, adding, "We are fixing these problems one by one, and this may not yield immediate results, but in the long term, we can curb the issue to an extent."

As part of efforts to address the issue, the BTP has identified violation hotspots during the special drives and is analysing the problems leading to wrong way driving at these locations. Officers have planned interventions such as increasing deployment at the hotspots and blocking certain stretches to curb violations. These measures will be implemented along with increased enforcement, which is expected to influence commuter behaviour, according to the BTP.

Going the wrong way

Year	Wrong way driving cases (in lakh)
2026	1.78 (till March-end)
2025	3.03
2024	1.87
2023	1.44
2022	4.99
2021	3.67

Traffic police station limits	Violations (till March-end)
Mahadevapura	6,022
Jeevan Bima Nagar	5,562
HAL Airport	5,058
J.P. Nagar	4,899
City Market	4,368

According to data from the past five years, three of the top five violation hotspots fall under the East Bengaluru division

According to data from the past five years accessed by *The Hindu*, three of the top five violation hotspots fall under the East Bengaluru division.

Within the HAL Airport Traffic Police Station limits, data shows that it recorded the highest number of violations over the past five years, with 57,653 cases.

Jeevan Bima Nagar ranks second with 46,730 cases, followed by Adugodi with 37,029, Shivajinagar with 34,710, and City Market Station with 32,721 cases. HAL Airport Traffic Police Station limits and Old Airport Road also saw the largest number of accidents last year.

Traffic police sources say these locations also witness the highest traffic movement, which contributes to the persistence of violations.

Medical Education Dept. keen on 15% NRI quota in all govt. medical colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Medical Education Department, Karnataka, is keen on reserving 15% of all seats in government medical colleges for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from the academic years 2026-27. The measure is seen as a revenue generating exercise to make government medical colleges move towards sustaining themselves and not depend on grants from the State.

There are 24 government medical colleges in the State with a total of 4,249 MBBS seats. While private medical colleges have a 5% NRI quota, government colleges did not. Last year, the government introduced a 15% NRI quota specifically within the enhanced seat capacity of the 24 government medical colleges – 450 seats for 2025-26 (67 seats). This year, the Department intends to expand it to all the seats available in the 24 colleges.

"A proposal to reserve 15% of the seats in government medical colleges for NRIs will be submitted to the government soon. Following that, the government has to take a decision on the same in the Cabinet, which will also mull on NRI quota in PG seats as well," B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka, told *The Hindu*.

A file photo of Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences in Hubballi.

The measure is seen as a revenue generating exercise to make government medical colleges move towards sustaining themselves

Presently, private colleges charge a fee of around ₹40 lakh to ₹47 lakh per annum for NRI quota seats. Last year, the government fixed a fee of ₹25 lakh per annum for NRI quota seats, as against ₹50,000 per annum for other seats.

The 24 government medical colleges are presently dependent on grants from the State government for their staff salaries, maintenance and other expenses, which the State has been wanting to reduce and make these colleges self-reliant as far as possible. The NRI quota is seen as a step towards the same.

Param Science Experience Centre at Whitefield inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Param Science Experience Centre (ParSEC), a 30,000 sq. ft facility, described as a "Living Laboratory" in Whitefield, was thrown open to the public on Sunday.

The centre, which is an initiative of the Param Foundation, aims to shift the paradigm of science education from rote memorisation to experiential learning.

Designed to accommodate over one lakh visitors every year, the facility in Whitefield follows the foundation's smaller pilot centre located in Jayanagar.

K. Radhakrishnan, former chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), who inaugurated the Centre, said that its strength lies in its multidisciplinary nature.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder, Infosys, pointed out, "Innovation in science and technology are the engines of human progress. When science advances, it creates new products, new industries, and new jobs. It generates wealth, and when reinvested wisely, it creates a cycle of progress that lifts everyone."

Range of galleries

The facility features a diverse range of galleries covering artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, light and optics, and electromagnetism, apart from design thinking and ancient Indian scientific knowledge systems.

United we run

Clockwise from left: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah taking part in the TCS World 10K Marathon in Bengaluru on Sunday; people dressed as LPG cylinders taking part in the marathon; a street dog makes its presence felt at the marathon; and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Tejasvi Surya, MP, at the event. PTI, SUDHAKARA JAIN, & ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, APR. 27	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:34
RISE 15:08	SET 02:56
TUESDAY, APR. 28	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 15:56	SET 03:33
WEDNESDAY, APR. 29	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 16:43	SET 04:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	36	25

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

The Hindu NiE schools excel in SSLC exam in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schools that are part of *The Hindu's* Newspaper in Education (NiE) programme are in a celebratory mood as they have secured excellent results in the State Board SSLC examination announced recently.

Amara Jyothi English School, Devasandra, K.R. Puram: Tanmay Deepak Awaradi topped with 96.64%, while Anushka Adhikari came second with 96%, and Kusha R. came third with 95.68%. As many as 140 students appeared for the exam; 46 got distinction and 90 got first class.

Cluny Convent High School, Jalahalli Post: The topper was Grishma Sai S. with 99.2%, Disha C.L got 98.72%, and Nisha Sunil George got 98.56%. Of the 237 students who appeared for the exam, 145 secured distinction and 92 secured first class.

Poornaprajna Education Centre, Indiranagar: The school witnessed a tie for the top spot, with both Harika M. and Laranya Ravi scoring 98.24%. Out of 88 students, 52 got distinction and 31 got first class.

Madonna School, Udayanagar: The school saw 58 distinctions and 66 first class rankings among the 124 students who appeared for the exam. Shreeya M. and Rohan P. emerged as joint toppers with 98.88% each.

Indiranagar High School, Indiranagar: The school saw 172 students appear for the exam, with 64 securing distinction and 87 securing a first class. Akshith R. topped the school with 97.12%, Biswajeet Das got 96.96%, and Punith Behera secured 96.64%

Jubilee School, Vijinapura: The topper was Varun Prajapath with 95.52%, while Arjun K. Arun secured the second position with 95.36% and Amrithalakshmi N.S. emerged as a third topper with 94.4%. Out of 107 students, 17 earned distinction and 63 earned first class.

Mahila Seva Samaja High School, Shankarapura, Basavanagudi: Subramanya C.G. emerged as the school topper with an impressive 99.52%. The school recorded an equal distribution of 27 distinctions and 27 first class results.

Sri Vidya Kendra, Peenya: With 111 students appearing, the school saw a high distinction rate with 64 and 44 first class students. Shilpa M. took the top spot with 99.04%, followed by Monisha R. at 98.88%.

St. Philomena's Public English High School, Doddabylakere: Tie between toppers, with both Roopesh S. and Parnika A.N. topping with 97%. Of the 58 students who appeared for the exam, 24 secured distinction and 34 first class.

SEA Primary and Higher Secondary School, Ekta Nagar, K.R. Puram: Dakshad C. stood first in the school with a score of 97%. Out of 95 students, 26 secured distinction and 63 students secured first class.

Jnana Deepthi English High School, Girinagar: Out of 62 students who appeared, the school saw 29 students get distinction and 25 get first class. Sanjay R. emerged as the topper with 96.64%, followed by Dhanush K. with 96.48%, and Amruth A. with 95.84%.

V.I.P High School, Adugodi: Safaa A. topped the school with 98.72%, while Noor Ul Huda stood second with 98.08%, and Manasa N. stood third with 97.60%. A total of 113 students appeared, with 48 securing distinctions and 62 getting first class.

East West Public School, Subramanyanagar, 2nd stage, Rajajinagar: Anupama C.H. stood first in the school with 96.8%. Out of the small batch of 24 students, seven secured distinctions and 14 achieved first class.

CBSE schools

National Hill View Public School, Banashankari: In the Class 10 CBSE examination, Akash Chetan Rao emerged as the topper with 97.8%. The school saw 44 distinctions and 37 first class results out of 117 students.

Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra, 6th stage, Banashankari: Out of 230 students, a massive 193 secured distinction and 31 secured first class. Raveesh Bharadwaj topped with 99.20%, while Abhinandan V. followed with 98.20%.

PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya CRPF, Yelahanka: Hemant Yadav stood first with 96.40%. The school recorded a nearly equal split between excellence levels, with 57 distinctions and 56 first class results among 130 students.

Two dogs attacked in separate incidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two incidents of alleged animal cruelty have been reported from the eastern parts of Bengaluru.

According to a complaint filed by Vikash A. Bafna, a violent incident occurred on the morning of Saturday around 8.30 a.m. in Muniyappa Layout, K.R. Puram. An unidentified young man allegedly attacked a stray dog with a knife, causing severe injuries. Witnesses reported that the accused also behaved aggressively toward nearby residents.

The injured dog was immediately shifted to a veterinary facility for treatment. Authorities have been urged to take strict legal action against the accused under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and relevant provisions of the BNS, 2023. In a separate incident reported on April 21 at around 8.40 a.m., a complaint was lodged by Rajesh, who is associated with an NGO. The incident took place near the BBMP Public Health Centre in ACL Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar.

Authorities have been urged to take strict legal action against the accused. FILE PHOTO

Preliminary inquiry revealed that a construction worker allegedly killed a dog at the site. The worker claimed that the act was in self-defence, stating that the dog had behaved aggressively.

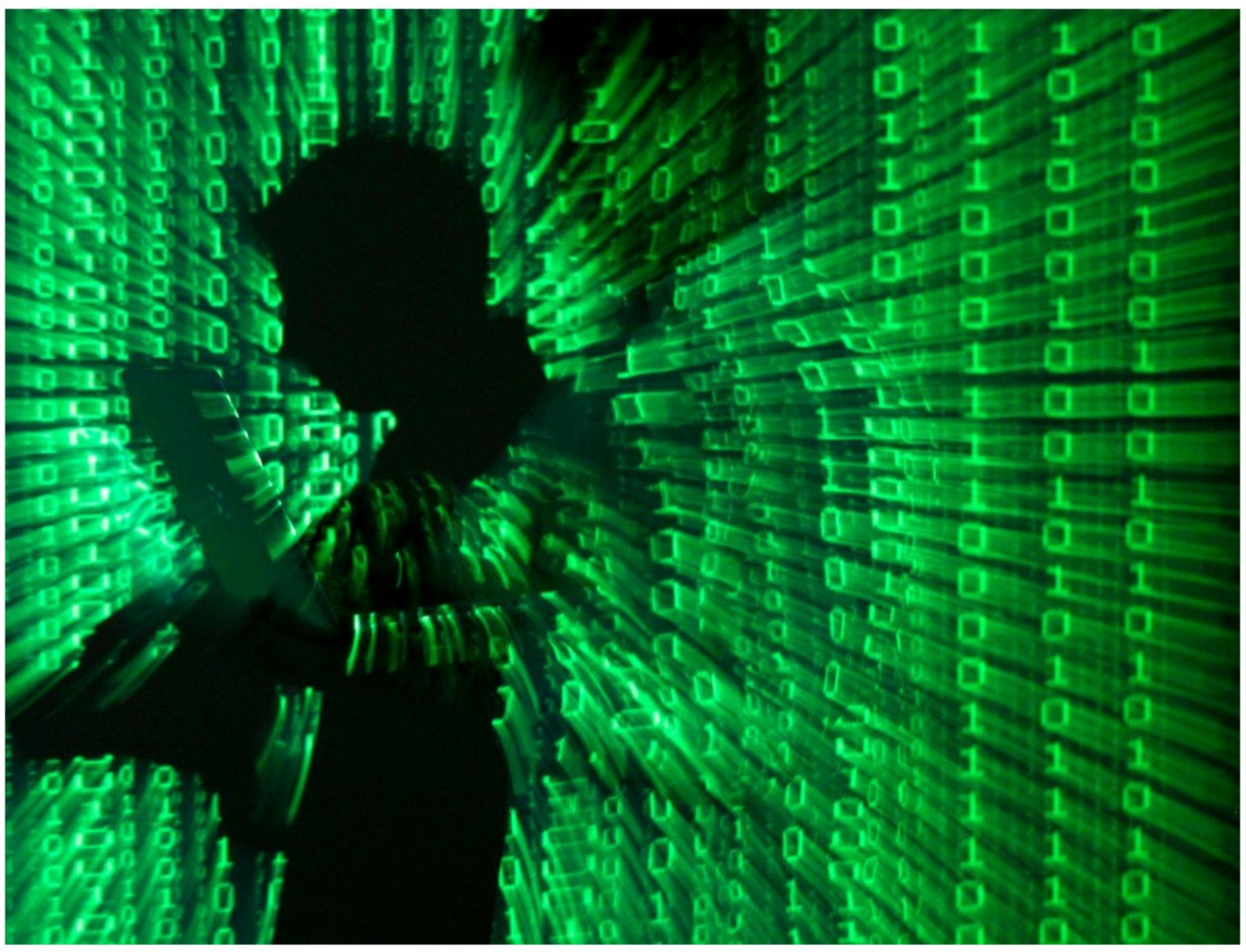
Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

CACHE

Has Anthropic's Mythos made the cure worse than the disease?

In the world of cybersecurity, defenders are, to put it crudely, your anti-virus sellers, helping you fix security vulnerabilities and keep data safe. But that simple business model is being disrupted by speed and scale

John Xavier



A small group of unauthorised users, those not part of Project Glasswing, have gained access to the Mythos model. REUTERS

A few weeks back, Anthropic made two major announcements. The AI company said it was forming an alliance with who's who of the tech industry and it said, with those alliance members, it will share its latest AI model that is skilled at identifying hidden weaknesses in software.

That created a sort of cartel-style alliance sans price fixing in an industry that is increasingly facing cyber threats as the mushrooming of AI-powered applications is making the already difficult threat terrain harder to navigate for defenders.

In the world of cybersecurity, defenders are, to put it crudely, your anti-virus sellers, helping you fix security vulnerabilities and keep data safe. But that simple business model is being disrupted by speed and scale.

AI models like Anthropic's Mythos are capable of finding flaws in the software architecture that have gone unnoticed for years, despite running the most capable security checks.

And the company has claimed that it has identified many such issues in the currently used software in several critical systems.

A new problem

The frontier AI company has said that only those in its alliance network have access to Mythos Preview. That means only they can find legacy flaws and fix them.

But the company is now fighting a problem it helped create – and one it may have already lost a round of.

A small group of unauthorised users, those not part of Project Glasswing, have gained access to the model. Based on reports, they haven't entered it through a back door. They seem to have made an educated guess about where the model lived online, based on the URL formats Anthropic uses for its other models, and leveraged credentials belonging to a contractor.

The group has been using Mythos regularly for some time, though not for cybersecurity purposes, according to a report by Bloomberg.

Anthropic confirmed it is investigating the incident and said there is currently no evidence that the activity extended beyond the third-party vendor environment.

The safeguard question

The incident raises serious questions about whether Anthropic, valued at approximately $380 billion, can effectively safeguard its most powerful technologies from falling into the hands of malicious actors.

This is also not the company's first stumble. The Mythos breach comes shortly after Fortune reported earlier that Anthropic had accidentally made nearly 3,000 internal files publicly accessible, including a draft blog post describing Mythos itself.

A company asking the world to trust its guardrails has now tripped over two of them in quick succession.

Mythos is not a database of known vulnerabilities. It is not a smarter version of the scanners security teams already run. It operates through interaction rather than inspection.

Mythos's capability

Instead of scanning code for known patterns, the system engages with it. It executes functions, tests different inputs, and observes how the software responds. Each result feeds into the next step, allowing the model to refine its approach and move deeper into the system.

If an attempt fails, it does not stop the process. But that failure acts as an input for the next process. Unlike conventional cybersecurity products, it acts like a senior security engineer who can reason about the software. And its biggest differentiation is that it won't get tired. It can persevere indefinitely.

The model has already found thousands of high-severity vulnerabilities, including some in every major operating system and web browser. It is capable of chaining multiple vulnerabilities together into working exploits. In controlled evaluations, it could execute multi-stage attacks on vulnerable networks, tasks that would take human professionals days of work.

Limited patches

Fewer than 1% of the potential vulnerabilities Mythos has discovered so far have been fully patched by their maintainers. The rest sit in a growing pipeline of known-but-undisclosed flaws. That pipeline is not a database in the traditional sense. But for anyone who gains access to Mythos, it functions as a live, continuously expanding map of weaknesses in software that runs banking systems, hospitals, power grids and supply chains.

Which returns us to the Discord group in the vendor environment – the small group of unauthorised users who access Mythos Preview. While their reported reason behind accessing is reassuring for now, it ignores the structural problem entirely. Access is access.

If another group, one with malicious intent, had gained access to this AI tool, it is very likely they would have sabotaged some critical software. With a ready-to-attack set of vulnerabilities, the power asymmetry is significant between the user and the attacker.

Also, the window between discovering a vulnerability and exploiting it by an adversary has now collapsed. What once took months now can happen in minutes with AI, as Microsoft noted in its Project Glasswing statement.

Alarming asymmetry

The unauthorised users don't need to understand everything Mythos can do. They need only to understand enough to start asking the right questions of it.

This is the asymmetry that should alarm security leaders more than any specific vulnerability. Defenders are constrained by set processes like patch validation, deployment windows, coordination across teams, and the operational cost of downtime.

Mythos leaves the defensive cost of answering those questions inside a real enterprise largely unchanged. The right lesson now is preparation. Attackers, meanwhile, have no such constraints. They only need one door left open. If thousands of vulnerabilities can be identified quickly, organisations may not have the capacity to address them all.

Prioritisation becomes critical, and errors become more costly. In this environment, more visibility does not automatically mean more secure.

Mythos-class capabilities will become more broadly available. Within the next year or two, enterprises will have direct access to AI-powered discovery tools that can scan their own proprietary codebases with similar depth.

Beyond Anthropic's Mythos

It is easy to stay stuck on a single model but it is quite possible that Anthropic may be overstating Mythos's capabilities as some experts have pointed out that smaller open models have demonstrated meaningful portions of what Mythos does, at a fraction of the cost.

While this means that the gap between a frontier model and a sufficiently motivated attacker with access to cheaper alternatives is narrowing, it also shows that hackers can get access to cheap, Mythos-level models.

That means organisations should be well prepared for a constantly evolving threat landscape where attackers are moving faster than patch cycles. There is also a need for a hard rethink of risk tolerance for operational downtime: if adversary timelines are now measured in minutes, the old calculus about acceptable patch delays no longer holds.

The deeper question is whether any single company can be trusted as the gatekeeper of technology this consequential. Project Glasswing was designed to put defenders ahead of attackers. But if the guardrails can be bypassed by a Discord group with a contractor's login and a good guess about a URL, the cure may be running on the same fragile infrastructure as the disease.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

The committee is nothing but a paper tiger

Govt. is under pressure to address the needs of the unhoused

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression 'paper tiger'? (Jyot Gulati, Madina)

A tiger is an animal that usually puts the fear of God in most people; no one chooses to take any risk with this powerful and formidable animal – people often flee as soon as its name is uttered. When we see the same animal in the form of a child's stuffed toy, however, instead of running away, we choose to hold it in our hand. We are not overcome by a sense of fear. When you refer to a person as being a paper tiger, what you are suggesting is that the individual, though he looks threatening, is, in reality, harmless. His outward appearance is just a show; he is, in fact, a toothless tiger – a very weak individual. The expression can be used with anything - countries, organisations, rules, etc. Here are a few examples.

Despite their leaders' bluster, people across the world have realised that both America and Russia have been reduced to paper tigers.

The new committee is nothing more than a paper tiger. It doesn't have the power to either fire or punish erring individuals.

How is the word 'bristle' pronounced? (S. Devender, Mysore)

The word consists of two syllables; the 't' in the second is silent. The vowel in the first syllable sounds like the 'i' in 'sit', 'bit' and 'lit', while the vowel in the second syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'china', The word is pronounced 'BRIS-el' with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the Old English 'byrst' meaning 'stiff hair', and it was initially used to refer to the thick hair found on the neck and back of animals - especially, hogs. With the passage of time, the word began to be used to refer to the short, thick hair that grows on our chin as well. The synthetic nylon at the end of a toothbrush began to be called 'bristles' because originally, toothbrushes were made from the bristles of hogs and boars.

You could see several bristles sprouting on my grandmother's chin.

The dentist recommended that I use a brush with softer bristles.

Bristle is also used as a verb to mean 'to be angry' – when animals get angry, their bristles stand up.

What is the difference between 'homeless' and 'unhoused'? (Nandini Rao, Warangal)

The term 'unhoused' is not anything new; it has been part of the English language since the late 16th century. Of late, the word has become popular among native speakers of English. In terms of meaning, there is no difference between 'unhoused' and 'homeless' - both are used to refer to people who do not have shelter. But since PC or political correctness is a big thing nowadays, there is a tendency to use 'unhoused' instead of 'homeless' – careful users of the language argue that 'unhoused' is a much more sensitive term than 'homeless'.

In our country, the number of unhoused people has doubled in the past decade.

The Government is refusing to discuss the problems of the unhoused.

upendrankye@gmailcom

Word of the day

Foolhardy:
marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences

Synonyms: reckless, careless, daring

Usage: *She made a foolhardy decision without thinking.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/foolhardy

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fu:lhɑ:di/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the occasion of International Design Day being observed today

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Why is April 27 celebrated as International Design Day and what is the theme for 2026?

QUESTION 2
One of the areas where designers can innovate is typefaces. So, which famous typefaces does one associate with Stanley Morrison, the duo of Robin Nicholas and Patricia Saunders and the Max Miedinger-Eduard Hoffmann pairing?

QUESTION 3
Which designer is credited with the famous '10 Principles of Good Design' and for which company did he create many iconic products?

QUESTION 4
Which famous saree from eastern India is renowned for designs on the 'pallu' depicting mythological scenes and epic stories?

QUESTION 5
What is the term for the mathematical proportion (~1.618) often used in design and architecture for aesthetic balance?

QUESTION 6
The Statue of Liberty was the handiwork of sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. But which famous engineer is said to have designed the internal metal framework for the statue?

QUESTION 7
With which famous brands would one associate the iconic designs 'Swoosh', 'Pecten' and 'Bibendum'?

Visual Question:
Name the Iranian architect who designed this famous edifice in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. West Bengal's first Chief Minister was a veteran freedom fighter with roots in the Anushilan Samiti and he served very briefly before being succeeded by one of the State's longer-serving CMs. **Ans: Prafulla Chandra Ghosh and Bidhan Chandra Roy**
2. When Jyoti Basu was first elected in the State Assembly, he was just one of three MLAs elected on the Communist Party of India ticket. Who among the other two, was elected from Darjeeling? **Ans: Rattanlal Brahmin**
3. Ajoy Mukherjee founded a party that launched the political career of a future President of India. **Ans: Bangla Congress, Pranab Mukherjee**
4. When Tamil thespian Sivaji Ganesan fiercely raged against social orthodoxy in Parasakthi, he was reciting dialogue written by a prolific screenwriter who also served as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. **Ans: M Karunanidhi**
5. Name this Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who was a school topper. **Ans: J Jayalalithaa**
Visual: Identify this popular CM from Tamil Nadu. **Ans: K. Kamaraj**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Sunil Madhavan | Dodo Jayaditya | Prodosh Mitra

At

GALGOTIAS

It's About the Company We Keep and The Students We Empower Through Placements

Driven by Students, Backed by Top Recruiters

Batch 2026 Highlights

526 **Students** Placed in Infosys

228 **Students** Placed in Capgemini

205 **Students** Placed in cognizant

119 **Students** Placed in LTM

188 **Students** Placed in CUB City Union Bank Ltd

91 **Students** Placed in accenture

61 **Students** Placed in EY

{ 4700+ PLACEMENT OFFERS SECURED FOR BATCH 2026 AS ON DATE }

Centre for Drone Intelligence & Simulation

Next Gen Structure and Smart Hydraulics Lab

Centre of Excellence - Tableau AI Data Lab

HP-Intel AI for Future Workforce Lab

Semiconductor Research Lab

INDUSTRY INTEGRATED ACADEMIC CENTRES

Centre for Supercomputing & Advanced AI Research anchored by Nvidia DGX H200 GPUs

Advanced Geotechnical and Earth Science Centre

Centre for Design Thinking & Augmented Reality

TATA Technologies Learning Centre

Cisco Centre of Excellence

GALGOTIAS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

For Admissions Scan to Apply

Email: admissions@galgotiacollege.edu

Web: www.galgotiacollege.edu

Following Programs are accredited by NBA
BTech - ECE, EE, EEE, CSE, IT & CE

Galgotias College of Engineering and Technology
Admissions Helpline No.:
0120-4513800, +91-7303382061
+91-7303382063

GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY

For Admissions Scan to Apply

Email: admission@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in

Web: www.galgotiasuniversity.edu.in

B.Pharma Program accredited by NBA

Galgotias University
Admissions Helpline No.:
9810162221, 9717300418, 9582847072
9971026125 **0120-4370000**

QS World University Rankings 2026 RANKED 1201-1400

RANKED 15th **amongst Top** Private Universities in India

RANKED 43rd **amongst Top** Private & Government Universities in India

For Computer Science and Information Systems

RANKED 2nd in Uttar Pradesh amongst Private Universities

RANKED 11th in India amongst Private Universities

G-SCALE GALGOTIAS STUDENT CENTERED ACTIVE LEARNING ECOSYSTEM
• Critical Thinking • Collaboration • Engagement • Experiential Learning

G-SCALE moves education beyond passive lectures to an environment where students actively engage in real-world problem-solving, collaboration, and experiential learning.

NAAC GRADE A+ Accredited University | THE Times Higher Education | nirf National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

Apply Today for Career-Focused 2026–27 UG/PG/Diploma/Ph.D. Programmes at Galgotias University

Computer Science and Engineering | Electronics and Communication Engineering | Electrical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering | Civil Engineering | Computer Applications and Technology | Defence Technology | Artificial Intelligence | Business | Aviation | Logistics and Supply Chain Management | Tourism Management | Liberal Education | Languages | Finance & Commerce | Basic Sciences | Biosciences and Technology | Forensic Sciences | Agriculture | Law | Pharmacy | Allied Health Sciences | Nursing | Media and Communication Studies | Hospitality | Design | Education | Polytechnic | Vocational Education | Skilling and Entrepreneurship

#GetYourSelfPlaced

‘Pneumonia is still among the leading causes of infant deaths in State’

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Data highlights that a majority of infant deaths occur in the neonatal period, particularly within the first 28 days. GETTY IMAGES

Pneumonia continues to be among the leading causes of infant deaths in Karnataka, underscoring persistent gaps in early-life care. This, even as the State has made progress in reducing mortality from other conditions, according to the latest Economic Survey of Karnataka.

Data for 2025-26 (up to December 2025) showed that of the 4,709 infant deaths recorded, pneumonia accounted for 204 cases, remaining the single largest identified cause. In contrast, diarrhoea – once among the top contributors to infant mortality – accounted for just 12 deaths, reflecting sustained public health gains.

Neonatal conditions continue to contribute significantly to overall mortality. The data showed 872 deaths owing to neonatal infections (sepsis) in the 0-1-month group. Among the infections that lead to sepsis, pneumonia remains the major cause, doctors said. Besides that, 814 infant deaths were owing to prematurity, and 724 due to birth asphyxia. A further 2,064 deaths were attributed to other causes, while fever-related conditions, 18, and measles, 1, accounted for a smaller share.

Epidemiological shift

Health officials said the trend points to a clear epidemiological shift. Basavaraj B. Dhabadi told *The Hindu* that while diarrhoeal deaths have sharply declined over the years owing to improved interventions, pneumonia continues to pose a major challenge.

“Earlier, diarrhoea was among the leading causes of infant deaths, but that has been addressed significantly. Now, pneumonia remains the highest cause as it is among the primary sources of infection that leads to sepsis,” he said.

Describing pneumonia as an infection of the lung tissue that can spread through respiratory, gastrointestinal or even skin-related pathways, he said newborns are particularly vulnerable. “Some babies are unable to withstand such infections. This challenge will remain,” he noted.

The data also highlighted that a majority of infant deaths occur in the neonatal period, particularly within the first 28 days. Officials said the first week – especially the first day – is the most critical for survival.

“Intra-partum and antenatal care are key areas of focus. Strengthening early interventions such as regular check-ups and nutritional supplementation during pregnancy is essential to prevent such outcomes,” Dr. Dhabadi said.

He added that improving institutional deliveries, early initiation of breastfeeding, and timely identification of infections could further reduce neonatal mortality.

On the maternal health front, the Economic Survey has identified hypertensive disorders in pregnancy and haemorrhage as the leading causes of maternal deaths among women aged 15-49. Of the 430 maternal deaths recorded during the period, 143 were owing to hypertensive disorders and 123 due to post-partum haemorrhage, followed by sepsis, 42, and other causes.

Officials said the persistence of these causes indicates the need for closer monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and better emergency obstetric care, particularly in rural areas.

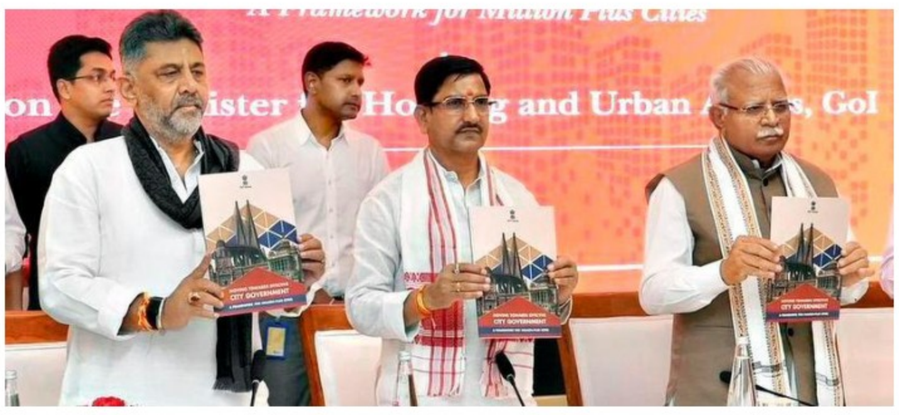
Public health experts said that while Karnataka has made measurable progress in reducing deaths from preventable diseases, the continued burden of pneumonia and neonatal conditions points to gaps in early diagnosis, referral systems, and access to timely treatment.

They noted that strengthening primary healthcare systems, expanding neonatal intensive care facilities, and improving awareness could help address these challenges.

State submits 1,082 project proposals to Union govt.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar says the Union government has earmarked ₹1 lakh crore under the Urban Challenge Fund for urban development, of which ₹5,000 crore has been allocated for cities in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar participating in the release of a report by Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said the Karnataka government has submitted proposals for 1,082 urban development projects to the Centre, with a total estimated cost of ₹1.25 lakh crore.

Mr. Shivakumar, who visited Delhi last week, met Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday and discussed development plans for Bengaluru and other cities in the State.

He said the Centre has earmarked ₹1 lakh crore under the Urban Challenge Fund for urban development, of which ₹5,000 crore has been allocated for cities in Karnataka.

“Certain criteria have been prescribed, and we have submitted proposals for 1,082 projects. Of the total project cost of ₹1.25 lakh crore, the Centre is expected to contribute around ₹32,000 crore to ₹35,000 crore,” he said.

During the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar told Mr. Khattar that Karnataka would be willing to utilise additional funds if other States do not avail their share. Minister for Municipal Administration Rahim Khan and senior officials were also present at the meeting.

On project implementation, Mr. Shivakumar said Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) would provide 50% of the funding as loans, while the Centre and the State or local bodies would each contribute 25%. “We have submitted the proposals to ensure we do not miss this opportunity,” he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to discuss issues related to building height restrictions, transferable development rights, and premium floor area ratio.

> Certain criteria have been prescribed, and we have submitted proposals for 1,082 projects. Of the total project cost of ₹1.25 lakh crore, the Centre is expected to contribute around ₹32,000 crore to ₹35,000 crore
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister

He said the proposed skydeck project has faced hurdles owing to restrictions linked to the HAL airport. The government has proposed to locate the project at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in the city. “We have submitted a proposal to the Defence Minister,” he said.

Leadership change: ‘CM and I will abide by high command’s decision’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

A day after returning from Delhi, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and he would abide by the Congress high command’s decision on leadership in the government.

Speaking to reporters here, he said that he had faith in the party leadership and that an appropriate decision would be taken at the right time. “Both the Chief Minister and I have said that we will follow the high command’s instructions and act accordingly,” he said.

During his three-day stay in the national capital, Mr. Shivakumar met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and reportedly sought clarity on the matter of leadership change.

There has been speculation about a possible leadership change and Cabinet reshuffle next month. The results of the Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory will be declared on May 4, along with that of the bypolls to two Assembly constituencies in Karnataka.

After May 4, the high command is expected to summon Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar for discussions on issues related to leadership, the Cabinet, and the KPCC president’s post.

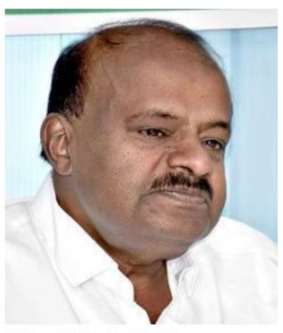
Mr. Shivakumar added, “Whatever has to happen will happen. From now on, I will not speak to the media on political matters. When the time comes, it will become clear.”

Responding to a query on Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi’s remarks about confusion within the party, he said: “Our party will take the necessary decisions at the right time. We have faith in our leadership; they know what needs to be done.”

He also appealed to party supporters not to put up boards or banners for his birthday on May 15.

Kumaraswamy questions Congress’s moral right to hold AHINDA meet

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA



Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has questioned the moral right of the Congress to hold a convention of AHINDA communities, given the events that unfolded during the byelection in the Davangere South Assembly constituency.

Answering a query during an interaction with presspersons in Chitradurga on Sunday, Mr. Kumaraswamy said that people of a particular community were humiliated by denying them the party ticket for the Davangere bypolls.

“Given this background, with what face will the Congress hold the convention of AHINDA communities?”, he wanted to know.

“They are holding the AHINDA convention only to save the top chair. The people of AHINDA communities claim that the Congress came to power because of them. However, in Davangere the Congress ignored the same AHINDA community,” he commented.

Further, the former Chief Minister commented that the State Election Commission had conveyed to the court that it had neither funds nor the staff to hold the Greater Bengaluru Authority elections. The State government itself had made the commission to make such a submission to the court, he alleged, and remarked: “The Congress is not in a situation to face the elections.”

BSY Abhimanotsava

Regarding the BSY Abhimanotsava, the event to mark former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa’s 50 years of public life, Mr. Kumaraswamy said he would convey his best wishes to the event.

The Union Minister was in Chitradurga to attend a private event.

Workshops, rallies will mark AHINDA silver jubilee celebrations: Satish

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi. FILE PHOTO

Alpasankhyata Hindulida Mattu Dalit (AHINDA) organisation will organise workshops and rallies across the State to mark its 25th year of formation, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said in Hubballi on Sunday.

He said that a mega rally will be organised to mark the silver jubilee celebrations.

He said that the main theme of these conventions will be about the social status and educational development of all deprived communities in the State. “Several leaders and activists are of the opinion that AHINDA platforms should not be used for political purposes. I am one of them,” the AHINDA leader said.

To queries, the KPCC vice-president said that the party high command will soon put an end to various confusions in the State Congress unit.

“There is some confusion about change of leadership. There is also some confusion about a Cabinet reshuffle. I think the party high command will soon resolve such issues. It has to be done for the smooth functioning of the party,” he said.

He said that there is no discussion in the party as of now about changing the KPCC leadership.

“However, this is not a matter of discussion at our level. The senior leadership will address such issues,” he said.

He said that he is in favour of the State government publishing the caste census report at the earliest.

“The earlier it is released, the more beneficial it will be to the various communities. It will also help facilitate good governance by giving proper data to various departments that implement various social welfare schemes,” he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

No rules for parking?

There appears to be little regulation of two-wheeler parking inside Cubbon Park in Bengaluru. During IPL matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, two-wheelers are parked on the park’s footpaths, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk. Even police personnel have been seen parking their vehicles on the footpaths, adding to the inconvenience, especially in the evenings. Ironically, the same authorities who enforce fines for traffic violations and haphazard parking on other days seem to turn a blind eye during IPL matches. Will the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner visit Cubbon Park on matchdays and take action to keep the footpaths free of parked two-wheelers?

All for show?

The Congress government’s *Swavalambi Sarathi* scheme has seen little progress, with a vehicle distribution event held on the steps of the Vidhana Soudha on March 26 drawing criticism as a “publicity exercise.” Organised by the Backward Classes Department, the event was attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who handed over keys to nearly 150 cars and goods vehicles to beneficiaries. However, the vehicles were returned to the showrooms shortly after the function and beneficiaries returned home with empty hands. Backward Classes Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi later acknowledged that the vehicles had to be taken back due to delays in finalising the beneficiary list and transferring funds through direct benefit transfer. The scheme is intended to support self-employment among SC/ST, OBC, and minority communities by providing subsidised vehicles. Questions remain over why the distribution event was held before these processes were completed.

Nagesh Prabhu

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Department of Mines and Geology
Email:dmg-eauction-mines@telangana.gov.in

Ref:3526719/MI/MMB/Phase-VI/2026 Date:April 27,2026

Notice Inviting Tender

‘Invitation of bids for grant of Quarry Lease for Minor Mineral blocks’

The Department of Mines and GeMology, Government of Telangana, invites bids for the grant of quarry leases for 22 Minor Mineral Blocks (without embedded clearances) through electronic auction under Rule 12 and 13 of the Telangana Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966, as notified pursuant to Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The minerals proposed for grant include **Colour Granite, Building Stone, Rough Stone, Road Metal and Gravel.**

Interested bidders may obtain the Tender Document containing eligibility criteria, auction schedule, reserve price, bidding parameters, terms and conditions, and other details from the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited at: **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/tgmmb/index.jsp).**

Mineral Block Summaries and the Model Tender Document are available free of cost in the portal. Block-specific Tender Documents are available for purchase from the portal. Interested bidders may register themselves on the MSTC website to obtain login credentials required for submission of bids and participation in the e-auction process.

The date for commencement of Sale of Tender Document is **Wednesday, 29 April, 2026.** The last date for puchase of the Tender Document is **Wednesday, 13 May, 2026, on or before 17:00 hours (IST)** and the last date for submission of bids **(both on-line and physical)** is **Tuesday, 19 May, 2026, on or before 17:00 hours (IST).**

Sd/-
Director of Mines & Geology (FAC).

DIPR R.O.No. 66-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 26-04-2026

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

17th ANNIVERSARY
Attained glory on 27th April, 2009

Mrs. Kanaka Thomas
Fondly remembered by
T. Joseph and
Dr. Hemalatha Joseph,
Rohit and Devina,
Rohan and Nivetha,
Harvey Joseph and
Ryan Joseph

Long wait for consumers: Petrol sales rose to 10,345 kl and diesel to 14,156 kl in the State on Saturday. G.N. RAO

Naidu orders review as panic buying shuts fuel stations in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday reviewed the petrol and diesel supply position in the State after a sharp spike in demand led to the temporary closure of several fuel stations.

Before flying from Mumbai to Amaravati, the Chief Minister held a teleconference with Chief Secretary K. Sai Prasad and other senior officials. They briefed him on the district-wise status of fuel availability and supply disruptions.

Officials said the State has 4,510 fuel outlets, of which about 10%, or 421 petrol bunks, had shut down due to lack of stock. Fuel supply, they said, was already 10% higher than normal levels, but panic buying by consumers triggered an unexpected surge in demand, resulting in long queues and rapid depletion of stocks at many outlets.

On an average day, the State records sales of about 6,330 kl of petrol and 9,048 kl of diesel. On Saturday alone, petrol sales rose to 10,345 kl and diesel sales to 14,156 kl, registering an increase of over 50%. Officials said the spike had intensified the strain even as supplies were being augmented.

Mr. Naidu said panic buying was aggravating the situation and causing inconvenience to the public, and directed officials to ensure that people did not face hardship from a fuel shortage.

Officials also flagged supply constraints in the aquaculture sector, where diesel is often procured in bulk in drums, adding to logistical pressure. The Chief Minister directed the District Collectors and Fisheries Department officials to prepare a coordinated plan to ensure that routine economic activity is not disrupted.

Mr. Naidu asked officials to submit a detailed report on measures taken, and progress, in easing the situation.

Helicopters deployed as forest fires spread rapidly across Nilgiris

Officials believe the fires were started by people, possibly in retaliation against the Forest Department's 'inaction' over the death of three persons

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The Forest Department is fighting multiple fires that have destroyed hundreds of acres of forest in the Nilgiris Forest Division and the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).

Helicopters were deployed from the Sulur Air Force base in Coimbatore for the second consecutive day on Sunday to help fight the fires.

Aerial assistance: The strength of the ascending fires prompted the authorities to seek aerial assistance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Extensive operation

According to a press release, a forest fire was reported in the Wenlock Downs Reserve Forest of Parson's Valley Range of the Nilgiris Forest Division on April 15.

A team of local foresters was deployed to fight the fire. More than 400 Forest Department personnel were roped in from across Tamil Nadu to put out the flames.

Crucial locations

Seven forest fire response vehicles were deployed at crucial locations. Two teams of the State Disaster Response Force and five teams of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department were drafted for the operations, the release said.

Members of eco-development committees were also engaged in fighting the fires, which spread rapidly on Saturday, driven by heavy winds, high temperatures, and low humidity.

Members of eco-development committees were also engaged in fighting the fires, driven by heavy winds, high temperatures, and low humidity

The strength of the ascending fires prompted the authorities to seek aerial assistance.

The Collector made the request to the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority. An Air Force team from Sulur conducted aerial reconnaissance, and was helping in dousing the fire using a helicopter, the release added. The Forest Department officials said the department was fighting multiple fires in the Singara and Masinagudi Forest Ranges in the MTR as well as those in Parson's Valley. They believe the fires were started by people, possibly in retaliation for the perceived inaction on the part of the Forest Department after the killing of three persons by tigers in The Nilgiris in the last year.

Warning

The Forest Department has warned communities residing near the reserve forests against starting fires.

In Mudumalai, the fires might have been started by herders clearing dry grass for regeneration of cattle fodder, according to officials.

Lakhs expected for BSY's 50 years in public life event

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra has said that lakhs of people from different parts of the State will take part in the BSY Abhimanotsava, a mega convention to celebrate 50 years of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in public life, to be held in Chitradurga on May 9.

Speaking to reporters after taking part in the bhoomi puja for the construction of the pandal and tent for the convention on Sunday, Mr. Vijayendra said that the puja was conducted in the presence of seers of various mutts and leaders of the BJP. "He dedicated 50 years of his life to society. All through his career he worked for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. He travelled across the State and built the party. We are organising an event to felicitate him on completing 50 years in public life," Mr. Vijayendra said.

He stated that Mr. Yediyurappa, through his efforts, strengthened the BJP, which was earlier considered a party of urban localities, and brought it to power in the State. He was responsible for bringing the BJP to power for the first time in South India.

"We are expecting lakhs of people from across the State to witness the event. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will felicitate Mr. Yediyurappa on the occasion," he stated.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and Meghalaya. Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.5	21.6	Kozhikode	—	37.2	29.3
Ahmedabad	—	44.8	28.2	Kurnool	—	43.2	29.7
Aizawl	5.0	30.2	18.3	Lucknow	—	43.0	43.0
Allahabad	—	45.7	26.3	Madurai	—	40.0	26.1
Bengaluru	—	36.0	24.8	Mangaluru	—	34.7	27.1
Bhopal	—	43.0	25.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	26.5
Bhubaneswar	—	35.5	26.5	Mysuru	—	36.2	21.4
Chandigarh	—	40.8	22.4	New Delhi	—	43.1	27.1
Chennai	—	38.6	27.6	Patna	—	34.4	27.6
Coimbatore	—	38.4	25.4	Port Blair	—	32.8	27.0
Dehradun	—	39.2	22.5	Puducherry	—	34.5	25.0
Gangtok	1.0	16.0	13.6	Pune	—	42.9	25.9
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	44.2	28.3
Guwahati	3.0	28.0	22.4	Ranchi	—	40.2	25.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	23.0	Shillong	—	16.3	12.1
Hyderabad	—	40.6	28.4	Shimla	—	31.5	20.0
Imphal	6.5	26.3	17.4	Srinagar	1.0	26.4	10.5
Jaipur	—	—	—	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	27.6
Kochi	—	33.2	28.6	Tiruchi	—	39.1	26.6
Kohima	—	—	—	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	33.6	27.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	377	.12	..81	..150	
Bengaluru	.14	..55	.20	..66	..95	
Chennai	...4	...3	.30	..57	..45	
Delhi	.49	129	.40	..232	..329	
Hyderabad	.16	..15	.35	..66	..92	
Kolkata	.13	..27	.20	..31	..51	
Lucknow	.13	..30	.19	..220	..160	
Mumbai	...5	..24	.28	..77	..149	
Pune	..—	..23	100	..50	..70	
Visakhapatnam	.34	..52	.26	..34	..109	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 349 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 24.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Heat, grief make way for customary grandeur as Kerala holds scaled-down Thrissur Pooram

Mini Muringatheri
THRISSUR

The scorching sun was harsher than ever, the humidity was unbearable, and there was a sense of gloom in the air. Yet, Thrissur Pooram unfolded in all its splendour on Sunday.

Deeply rooted in tradition yet vibrant in festive energy, the annual festival in Kerala is a unique blend of rituals, percussion, and grand elephant processions. It signifies the symbolic meeting of deities of 10 famous temples in the region with the main participants being the deities of Paramekkavu and Thiruvambady temples.

Following the fireworks tragedy at Mundathikode that claimed 15 lives, authorities had decided to hold this year's event without fireworks. While all other major rituals were retained, the *Kudamattam* was curtailed to just 15 minutes, with just 10 sets of parasols to be displayed.

Majestic thunder: Crowds gathered to witness the traditional *Kudamattam* as part of the Thrissur Pooram in front of Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple at the Thekkinkadu Maidan on Sunday. K.K. NAJEEB

The scaled-down format did not deter people, determined to make the most of what remained and keep the spirit of the festival vibrant, from thronging Thekkinkadu Maidan. As the trumpets roared, and richly adorned elephants strode in royal procession, people plunged headlong into the festival mood.

Emotional bond

Deities were brought on caparisoned elephants to Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple, with their convergence offering a breathtaking sight, while the percussion ensembles by some of finest in the State woke up the rhythm in the people's heart. The deep emotional bond the festival has with people of Thrissur and beyond explains the crowd that gathered under a cloud of grief that hung over the proceedings.

As artiste Nanda Kishore put it, "We stand here with pain in our hearts. But we cannot turn away from festivals. Poorams and celebrations bridge distances between people... lighten our hearts. That is why these festivals must go on."

Visually challenged trainee judge gets an inclusive campus

Thanya Nathan C., Kerala's first visually challenged trainee judge, at the Kerala Judicial Academy on Sunday. THULASI KAKKAT

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Hostel room number 110 on the ground floor of the Kerala Judicial Academy at Athani in Ernakulam has been spruced up for a new occupant.

Two stainless steel grab bars have been fixed along the wall of the room to guide Thanya Nathan C., the first visually challenged trainee judge in the district judiciary of Kerala, who checked into the hostel on Sunday, from the door to the bed. The bathroom has been modified to cater to the needs of its occupant. Ms. Nathan will be accompanied by her mother, C.H. Babitha, with permission from the academy which will be covering the expenses.

The academy premises have been modified to ensure unobstructed movement for Ms. Nathan with newly built ramps and tactile paving to guide her along the path. A walkway encircling the courtyard with a fully grown flowering tree has been secured with chains to prevent any accidental fall.

"I need a companion to move outside the room, though I quickly get accustomed to the interiors of the rooms where I am staying. It is for the first time that I am staying in a hostel room," Ms. Nathan said.

While service of a woman attendant will be made available for Ms. Nathan, her fellow trainees will be put on a weekly rotation to help her complete her academic work. It will be a learning opportunity for other trainees, said K.N. Sujith, Director of the academy.

Ms. Nathan may miss the "walk the talk" programme where the trainees take a stroll along the campus with senior judges. However, plans are afoot to set up the required facilities for the programme.

Some of the proposals to make the campus fully inclusive, which had to be put on hold during the Assembly election, will be revived once the Model Code of Conduct is lifted. Purchasing of software for trainees with special needs is in the pipeline, Mr. Sujith added.

The year-long training programme for Ms. Nathan and her fellow trainees will commence on Monday with an induction ceremony at 11 a.m.

Telangana CM seeks refresh of grievance redress app

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Directing officials to strengthen Prajavani, the platform enabling people in Telangana to register their grievances for timely solutions, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has asked them to decentralise the system so that people at the grassroots levels are able to register their complaints.

Mr. Reddy gave the instructions during a meeting with senior officials headed by Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao on Sunday. He wanted Prajavani to be extended to the revenue division level with immediate effect and to mandal level in the coming days.

Prajavani, launched a few days after the Congress took over the reins of the State in December 2023, has ensured speedy redress of grievances. Senior officials receive complaints every Friday and take steps for their expeditious redress. A similar mechanism has been functioning at the district level, where Collectors conduct Prajavani weekly.

The Chief Secretary was asked to give adequate powers to officials at different levels to resolve the complaints lodged during Prajavani.

All the complaints should be registered and sent to the departments, and the applicants should be informed about the status of their representation from time to time.

Grievances should be resolved in a time-bound manner and there should not be any delays in addressing the issues raised by the people.

'Minister D. Sudhakar on life support, may need lung transplant'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Doctors attending to D. Sudhakar, Minister for Planning and Statistics, say that if his lungs do not show significant improvement, he may be considered for lung transplantation.

In a health bulletin issued on Sunday, doctors said at present he was stable on life support.

It may be noted that Mr. Sudhakar, who had developed lung infection, is receiving intensive medical care at KIMS Hospitals, Electronic City, Bengaluru.

"On April 20, around 8 p.m., he was shifted from Manipal Hospital on Extra Carporeal Life Supportfor further advanced care here. At present, he is stable on life supports and if his lungs doesn't show significant improvement he may be considered for lung transplantation" stated Dr. Pavan Yadav M.V., Clinical Director & Senior Consultant- Interventional Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine, Associate Director - Lung Transplantation at KIMS.

Upgraded SARPA platform to boost snakebite care in Kerala

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid a rise in snakebite cases in Kerala during the ongoing heat wave, the State Forest Department is set to roll out an upgraded version of its snake-response platform, SARPA, aimed at strengthening emergency response and reducing fatalities.

The Snake Awareness, Rescue and Protection App (SARPA) has played a crucial role in recent years by coordinating snake rescues, enabling users to report sightings, and providing details of trained responders and nearby healthcare facilities. The platform has been credited with improving response times.

The proposed upgrade comes against the backdrop of a spike in snakebite cases, which officials and experts link to the present spell of extreme heat. Kerala has reported four fatalities from snakebites last week.

According to official sources, SARPA is being redesigned to address deficiencies in emergency care by integrating a network of medical professionals and snake experts into the platform. This will allow first responders to access verified and real-time guidance during the crucial minutes following a snakebite.

One of the persistent challenges in snakebite management is the difficulty in identifying the species involved, which often leads to hesitation in administering anti-snake venom or uncertainty about the correct dosage.

The upgraded application will include dedicated login access for doctors, which will enable them to guide first-response measures remotely until specialised care is reached.

Turning point

The U.S. is slicing away at India's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy

The U.S. has allowed its waiver of sanctions on Iran's Chabahar port to lapse on Sunday (April 26), indicating that India is now at a crossroads on how to proceed with the port as a key connectivity initiative. Barring a belated waiver renewal, New Delhi must choose between accepting sanctions and abandoning its $620 million investment, or proceeding with the project and risk strict U.S. sanctions. India's "start-stop" engagement with Iran on developing a facility at the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar goes back decades, and Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee signed an MoU for the project in 2003. However, U.S. pressure on India to postpone plans aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear programme led to construction delays. The Manmohan Singh government was unable to make much progress either, but continued work on the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect the Iran-Afghanistan border crossing to Kabul. After the 2015 JCPOA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government signed a trilateral agreement with Iran and Afghanistan to advance trade and aid via Chabahar port and a highway into Afghanistan. Chabahar's importance grew as ties with Pakistan deteriorated and it restricted India's transit access to Afghanistan. However, fate intervened again as U.S. President Donald Trump walked out of the JCPOA, and began a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran by re-implementing all sanctions. While India was forced by the U.S. to give up Iranian oil imports, and plans for the rail line, the U.S. built a "carve-out" for Chabahar, allowing India to send wheat and medical supplies to Afghanistan. That carve-out is now at an end, with the Trump administration giving Delhi until this month to "wind-down" its operations. Since November 2025, India has withdrawn personnel from Chabahar, prepaid its $120 million investment commitment, and is considering transferring its stake in the Shahid Beheshti Terminal to an Iranian company, with the option of returning later.

The West Asia war has complicated the situation, and it is unclear when, if ever, India will be able to re-engage with Iran or rebuild Chabahar after the conflict. Temporarily dropping the project may seem pragmatic. However, Chabahar is just one of several India's independent decisions that the U.S. has thwarted; there have been diktats to stop buying oil from Iran, Venezuela, and Russia. Mr. Trump has threatened sanctions on all trade with Iran, and on BRICS grouping members; the U.S.'s seemingly insatiable demands may also extend to India's engagement with other countries. Giving in on Chabahar will not just end India's connectivity plans with Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan. It will damage its claims of sovereign autonomy, and slice away its ability to pursue an independent foreign policy.

Tough call

India needs to develop rapid venom detection diagnostics

A combination of snakes being ectothermic, a hotter summer than usual, difficult decision-making, and gaps in clinical infrastructure has led to a situation in Kerala where the availability of anti-snake venom (ASV) has not been able to prevent all deaths from snakebites. Snakes are driven by the heat to seek refuge in cool, damp spaces, which means homes and storerooms with firewood and coconut husks. The State is also densely vegetated with substantial human-wildlife range overlap. April-May is also the pre-monsoon breeding season for many venomous snakes, which means that they move around more and tend to be defensive. However, about 70% of snakebite presentations involve non-venomous species, and roughly half of the rest are dry bites with no venom injected. A substantial number of patients thus do not warrant ASV. Caution against administering ASV willy-nilly is merited because these compounds can also induce anaphylactic reactions, which can be fatal. At the same time, there is no commercially available diagnostic kit in India to detect venom in a patient's blood, and the diagnosis is entirely symptomatic. The ICMR has called this syndromic approach a systemic flaw, since by the time symptoms appear, the venom may already have damaged tissue irreversibly. Together with scarce ICU beds, a lack of ventilator backups, inadequate training in managing anaphylaxis, and limited lab support for monitoring, this approach has offset the benefits of the availability of ASV.

India accounts for nearly half of all snakebites in the world, with agricultural workers and children being the worst affected. Kerala is home to over 100 snake species, including the Big Four venomous snakes: the common krait, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper, and spectacled cobra. The State government has made snakebite a notifiable disease. It launched the 'SARPA' programme to professionalise snake rescue. The SARPA Padam and the upcoming SARPA Suraksha programmes also focus on assessing risk and conducting ward-level and school awareness campaigns. Progressive as the notification and 'SARPA' are relative to similar measures in the rest of India, the deaths are a sign that Kerala may be prevention-heavy and that it needs to reinforce the 'cure' as well. ASV is already widely available; the uncertainty that prevails over doctors' decision-making at the first point of contact needs to be mitigated. Many experts have also called for the development and use of rapid venom detection diagnostics to eliminate the risks of the syndromic approach. This must be followed by increasing hospital capacity and the availability of skilled medical workers to manage the consequences of that decision.

Trump's hubris and the cost to the world order

M.K. Narayanan

Former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The *Chambers Dictionary* describes hubris as insolence, arrogance, and overconfidence that can lead to disaster or ruin. The moot question is whether this description fits the actions and personality of United States President Donald Trump. To many, if not most people, it would seem an apt description of the 47th President of the U.S. who, in his second term, seems intent on completing the unfinished tasks of his first, and in a manner that leaves no one in any doubt about his narcissistic attributes. To some, this may appear too harsh a judgment, but considering reactions from across the globe, the majority would agree.

Mr. Trump's actions at the beginning of this year in Venezuela, followed by his shenanigans in West Asia,suggest that he fully comprehends what he is doing. His supporters even cite historical precedents to justify his actions. They refuse to accept that all this only confirms the rise of the 'illiberal international', which is reshaping the global order today.

A false reading of victory

Wars usually tend to be fought in the belief that one side will come out victorious. In West Asia today, the situation conforms to the adage that not all wars need to have a winner. A 'no win fragile peace' in West Asia should ordinarily be a humbling experience for anyone, but Mr. Trump is intent on brandishing the claim that he has virtually eclipsed Iran. Higher levels of bombast cannot, however, obscure the reality that while Iran has suffered, it still stands tall though bruised. The Pakistan moderated truce talks in Islamabad have, meanwhile, provided a fig leaf for a truce of sorts and an opportunity to continue negotiations without either side having to prove its claims of victory.

Mr. Trump's folly of launching a war on a Friday/Saturday, hoping to force a result in his favour by Monday morning, has since been proven wrong. Spurred, perhaps, by his success in Venezuela, and driven by a delusion to win a Nobel Peace Prize by preventing another world war, Mr. Trump appears to see victory in every twist and turn of events in West Asia today. His occasional claims to peace having returned to the region appear increasingly hallucinating rather than real.

From Israel's point of view, a ceasefire on terms that have not achieved its objective of destroying Iran's war machine carries little meaning. That this should be so, even after the U.S. had joined the war on its side, would be even more hurtful, but it has little option but to go along. A major worry is that if the impression were to gain ground that, having launched a war to end all wars, it has now been reduced to being a nursemaid to a faltering peace, it would be highly damaging to its image and future.

The West Asia conflict has exposed the disruptive leadership style of the United States President

As of now, there appear to be no victors or losers in a conflict 'manufactured' by Israel, and sustained by the U.S. If anything, suspicions have grown about Israel's role overall, as also about its manipulative skills, leading to a 'credibility gap' across the region. The role of the U.S. as a guarantor and guardian of many Arab States, including provision of a nuclear umbrella, also stands diminished. It is too early to assess how this would fundamentally alter power equations across the region.

Military leaders often declare deadlines to finish campaigns. Mr. Trump is, perhaps, the first civilian overlord to announce deadlines and determine victories, often randomly and without justification. This war has witnessed a series of announcements by Mr. Trump about the end of the war in West Asia as also several announcements of victory, leading to an 'Alice in Wonderland' scenario. Meanwhile, hundreds have lost their lives on account of an unnecessary conflict, and several thousand have been rendered homeless.

Modern war realities

One lesson to learn from the conflict – something that is less known and often overlooked – is how smaller armies can 'best' major powers by employing low cost effective weapons and tactics. Further, overestimating the strength of powerful allies – by Israel in respect of the U.S. – could prove a costly mistake. Iran might have been battered, but any belief that this would result in the dismantling of Iran's network of proxy militia, has clearly been belied. What has accompanied this is the deep suspicion – across the region, and also in the West and elsewhere – about Israel's Machiavellian tactics and policies of misinformation.

The failure of the Pakistan-mediated ceasefire talks held from early April in Islamabad raised the spectre of a fresh round of unbridled violence, with the U.S. President at one stage even threatening to erase Iran from the face of the earth. Yet, even as all bets were off on what to expect at the end of the two-week-long ceasefire, Mr. Trump pulled another rabbit out of his hat. As the world waited with concern at the grim prospect of a further escalation of a needless war, Mr. Trump announced that he was acceding to Pakistan's request and announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire.

Mr. Trump's logic in acquiescing to Pakistan's request and endorsing the need to give Tehran's leadership more time to prepare a proper end to the war would have been praiseworthy, had it not emanated from anyone other than the present incumbent of the White House, who is known for his mood swings. Notwithstanding the rickety ceasefire prospects, hopes have arisen that an all-out war has been avoided for now. Iran, however, is acting as a 'spoiler', seizing some ships in the Strait of Hormuz. There is also no clarity on the date or even the likelihood of the next round of U.S.-Iran talks.

The ceasefire does provide some breathing space for now. What is significant is the fact that a war initiated by Israel has since changed colour, with Israel's role becoming peripheral. The focus has shifted to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and on determining who has the authority to impose a blockade of international waters. In 1507, a Portuguese admiral took control over the Strait of Hormuz, turning it into a customs-controlled port that levied duties on passing trade. Mr. Trump is now exploiting this anachronism to turn it into a global chokepoint, imposing a naval blockade, and threatening the free flow of oil across the Strait. Given the unpredictability of his thought processes, nothing can be said as to how long the latest ceasefire would last, but his assertion that Tehran must never have a nuclear weapon, nor make or obtain one, would seem to suggest that the current ceasefire is likely at best to be a temporary one.

Pakistan's role

What is possibly most galling for India is the emergence of Pakistan as a conciliator – or to use Mr. Trump's phrase "an indispensable broker" as far as the conflict is concerned. Even as Mr. Trump seeks to garner all the glory, proclaiming that he has been able to stave-off the 10th major war of his times, Pakistan's role and its influence is witnessing an upswing. The turn of the wheel whereby Pakistan rather than India helped negotiate peace, is likely to make India unhappy, but this is the reality as of today. The special relationship between Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan and the U.S. President is different from the usual cozying up of Pakistani generals with U.S. Presidents in the past, and this has helped shape Pakistan's emergence as a peacemaker that cannot be wished away. What should also not be lost sight of is that, of late, Pakistan has successfully managed to project itself as a net 'security guarantor' for the Islamic world. In the circumstances, India must tread lightly. It may be something that India had not bargained for, but any attempt at this time to denigrate Pakistan and Asim Munir's role could prove counterproductive. Patience has been India's sublime virtue, and this is the time for India to exercise it in full measure.

Summer as a source of income shock for gig workers

Krishna Malakar

Assistant Professor in Climate Policy, IIT Madras

As India moves into another summer, early forecasts indicate intense heat ahead. Heatwaves are no longer rare; they are a recurring feature of Indian summers. The question is no longer whether extreme heat will return, but whether the country is prepared for its economic consequences.

Official data show that India did experience significant heat-related mortality in 2022. Meteorological trends indicate that heatwaves across large parts of the country have become more frequent and prolonged over the past decade. As policymakers review preparedness measures before peak summer arrives, there is one group which remains largely absent from the adaptation conversation – gig and delivery workers, whose livelihoods increasingly power India's urban economy.

From food delivery riders and e-commerce couriers to app-based drivers and logistics workers, millions now earn income through digital platforms. NITI Aayog estimates India had about 7.7 million gig workers in 2020-21, projected to reach over 23 million by 2029-30. As heatwaves intensify, this growing workforce will be among the most climate-exposed and least protected.

Heat cuts earnings

For gig and delivery workers, extreme heat is not just a matter of discomfort; it directly affects earnings. Income depends on the number of trips completed, orders delivered, or hours logged on an app. When temperatures surge, movement slows, fatigue increases, and health risks rise; yet, incentive structures remain unchanged.

Unlike salaried employees, gig workers cannot "work from home" or take paid leave during extreme heat. Logging off for a few hours means immediate income loss. Continuing to work through peak heat hours increases the risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and longer-term health stress. If the coming summer follows recent patterns, heat will be not just a public health concern but an income shock, forcing workers to choose between protecting their health and their earnings.

Resilience for gig workers means safe work and stable earnings during extreme heat

Preparedness remains incomplete

India has made progress in recognising heat as a public health risk. Heat Action Plans, early warning systems and emergency measures have improved preparedness in several cities. But most policies still treat heat as a medical emergency rather than an economic risk, assuming that people can adjust their behaviour. Advisories typically recommend staying indoors, reducing physical activity, and taking frequent breaks. But for gig and delivery workers, whose income depends on mobility, these options are not realistic.

Even where cities set up temporary drinking water kiosks, shaded rest areas, or cooling centres, these measures are rarely designed with highly mobile platform workers in mind. As a result, preparedness efforts may reduce mortality, but they do little to prevent income loss.

The weeks before peak summer offer a narrow but important policy window. Heat stress sits at the intersection of climate policy, labour regulation, urban planning and platform governance. Yet, responsibility remains fragmented.

Health departments focus on illness and mortality. Disaster management agencies focus on emergency response. Labour departments grapple with the ambiguous employment status of gig workers. Digital platforms optimise delivery times and incentives, with limited explicit integration of climate risk considerations. When accountability is distributed across institutions without coordination, heat risk for gig workers remains inadequately addressed. These vulnerabilities are further compounded for women gig workers, who often face additional health, safety and unpaid care burdens during extreme heat, making income disruption even harder to absorb.

If adaptation is to move beyond reactive measures, this is the moment to expand its scope.

First, heat must be treated as a labour and productivity issue, not only a health one. Rest norms during peak heat hours, shaded congregation points, and access to drinking water at common waiting locations should be seen as basic safeguards.

Second, policymakers must acknowledge that extreme heat creates income volatility. Without mechanisms – whether through labour protections or better integration with existing welfare systems – to cushion these losses, adaptation will remain incomplete.

Third, digital labour platforms need to be part of the preparedness conversation. Heat-responsive design such as moderating delivery pressure during peak heat hours or introducing more flexible performance metrics –can lower exposure without halting services.

Finally, stronger institutional coordination is needed before summer intensifies. Collaboration among labour departments, urban local bodies, disaster management authorities, and platform regulators would signal that heat risk is being treated as an economic issue, not just a seasonal emergency.

Rethinking resilience

India's cities increasingly depend on gig and delivery workers to function. Food, medicines and essential goods move through urban systems because this workforce absorbs daily risks. As temperatures rise, those risks will intensify.

Climate resilience cannot be measured only by advisories issued or cooling centres opened. For gig workers navigating city streets on two-wheelers and bicycles, resilience means the ability to work safely – and to earn without enduring silent income losses during extreme heat.

If heat preparedness continues to overlook gig and delivery workers, the country will enter another season of rising temperatures without protecting one of its most visible and essential workforces.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAP defections

The exodus of high-profile leaders from the primary membership of the Aam Aadmi Party is the party's worst existential crisis to date, leaving it at a political crossroads. For a party that set out to overhaul the political system, the steady loss of leaders is a clear sign of inadequate engagement by its central leadership with the rank and file. AAP needs to strengthen its grassroots, purge power brokers and sycophants, and quell internal dissent and factionalism by grooming second-rung leaders through a spirit of consensus.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

The ease with which the MPs crossed over from a party avowedly founded on lofty ideals to a party espousing the Hindutva ideology was astonishing. Are we to deduce that little ideology divides politicians in India? The mask of idealism has fallen off the faces of the defectors. There seems to be some substance in the allegation that the MPs joined the BJP to get "dry-cleaned".

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu results

Most pre/post poll predictions have indicated that the ruling DMK will come back to power in Tamil Nadu, if not with a massive mandate but with a comfortable majority. However, the fair, impartial and flawless declaration of the results depends on how the Election Commission of India which has proved beyond doubt that it is blatantly partisan in favour of the BJP government and its allies, is going to conduct itself during the counting and declaration of the final results.

It is unfortunate that the Election Commission has become the most controversial conductor of fair and free elections in India.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Stunning show

What a thrilling afternoon at Chepauk. Despite CSK's fighting 158/7, Gujarat Titans were simply unstoppable. It was a clinical, dominant performance worthy of champions.

S.M. Jeeva,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Information asymmetry in higher education

Jnyanranjan Sahoo

is associated with the National Council for Teacher Education. Views are personal

Every admission season in India feels like a marketplace of promises. Brochures look impressive and websites highlight success stories. Yet, even then, students are making some of the most important decisions of their life with limited and uneven information.

India's higher education system has expanded rapidly; enrolment increased from 3.42 crore in 2014-15 to 4.33 crore in 2021-22. The Gross Enrolment Ratio has also improved. The higher education landscape has enlarged from standalone degrees to multidisciplinary ones, and that too of various management categories. However, expansion has made choices more complex.

Making the right choice

Students and families often face trade-offs between cost, quality, and location when choosing an institution. The core problem is that institutions know far more about their quality than students do. They have detailed knowledge about their faculty, teaching-learning processes, infrastructure, student support systems and placement outcomes. In contrast, students depend on brochures, advertisements, informal advice, and selective placement data. Much of this available information is incomplete or unverifiable. In economics, this situation is called information asymmetry. When one party has more information than the other, decision-making becomes distorted. George Akerlof's idea of the "market for lemons" explains how, in such situations, lower-quality providers can imitate the signals of higher-quality ones. In higher education, this means that institutions offering weaker academic quality can still appear attractive through marketing, branding, or selective disclosure. As a result, students may end up choosing institutions that do not meet their expectations. Simultaneously, good institutions may not be able to distinguish themselves clearly. This creates a situation of adverse selection, where the market does not reward quality effectively.

The problem is not just about individual choices. It has wider implications. It affects graduate outcomes, employability, and trust in the education system. It also has implications for achieving national goals such as the SDG-4 (ensuring inclusive and quality education) by 2030 and Viksit Bharat by 2047 with a skilled and employable workforce.

Overload of information

One may argue that there is now more information available than ever before. However, institutional websites, rankings, data portals, and social media may offer vast information, but not necessarily better information.

A large part of the data available is self-reported and often promotional. Definitions of indicators such as faculty strength, research output, and placement outcomes vary across institutions. Some rankings use methods that are not fully transparent. For students and families, this creates confusion. In such situations, students tend to rely on visible signals such as brand name, campus infrastructure, or fees. These signals are easy to observe but they do not always reflect academic quality. When these signals dominate decision-making, institutions may focus more on visibility than on improving provisions related to teaching-learning processes. This is where public ranking frameworks and verified data portals become important.

India's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), introduced in 2016, is one such effort to standardise information. It uses a common set of indicators such as teaching and learning resources, research output, graduation outcomes, outreach, and perception. It also requires institutions to disclose data in a structured format, the value of which lies in comparability. When institutions report data using common definitions and formats, it becomes easier for students to make informed choices. Similarly, centralised data portals that provide verified information on enrolment, accreditation, and faculty strength can reduce dependence on informal and unreliable sources.

Institutional websites, rankings, data portals, and social media may offer vast information, but not necessarily better information

Room for improvement

These tools also have limitations. Rankings depend on how indicators are selected and weighted. If too much importance is given to easily measurable factors, institutions may try to improve scores rather than actual quality. Many important aspects of education, such as classroom experience, mentoring, and work-integrated learning, are difficult to measure. There is also a risk of over-interpreting ranks. Differences between institutions may be small, but ranks can create the perception of large gaps. This is why rank bands and methodological transparency are important. Despite these limitations, the absence of credible public information would be far worse. Without verified data, students would continue to rely on biased information. Information asymmetry would remain high, and poor-quality signalling would persist.

If India aims to build a strong and inclusive higher education system, information systems must be a priority. This includes better data verification, clearer definitions, transparent methodologies, accessible platforms and appropriate visualisation. For students, this is about making informed choices. For institutions, it is about credibility and accountability. The key question is simple: can students choose well if they cannot clearly see what they are choosing? Until that gap is reduced, the higher education market will continue to reward not only quality, but also the ability to present quality convincingly.

Kerala's heat-ridden woes

Summer is being defined by rising power consumption and political rows

STATE OF PLAY

Tiki Rajwi
tiki.rajwi@thehindu.co.in

If there's one thing in Kerala that would make a sizeable dent in household budgets this summer, it would be the electricity bill. The sweltering summer heat in conjunction with the State's cloyingly humid weather have pushed up electricity consumption to the extent that records were being reset on a daily basis in mid-April.

On April 25, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) pleaded with consumers to avoid charging electric vehicles or using electricity-guzzling equipment after 6 p.m. The spike in consumption is largely attributed to the over-dependence on air-conditioners to beat the heat. For the first time in the history of the State's power sector, electricity demand during peak hours in the evening , 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., crossed the 6,000 megawatt (MW)-mark this summer. Kerala also saw daily consumption skyrocketing to 117.18 million units (mu) on April 18. Daily consumption in April has so far averaged 107.23 mu. To put it in perspective, it was 95 mu in April 2025. Moreover, as of April 25, the State has reported a 43% shortfall in summer rainfall, according to the India Meteorological Department. All this assumes significance when read with the fact that Kerala 'imports' over 70% of its electricity from outside the State. Of the remaining roughly 30% generated within the State, hydropower is the mainstay, but it is generally kept at a minimum in the summer months as a reserve for contingencies.

Curiously, there is also the 'power paradox'. The State's

solar power capacity, household-level generation included, has grown in recent years. So much so that the day-time injection of surplus solar power into the grid has become too much to handle for the KSEB. Here, the problem lies in the fact that Kerala lacks large-scale energy storage systems, although several Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Pumped Storage Projects are in the pipeline. Last week, the KSEB was pulled up by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission for sloppy planning for the summer and for not fast-tracking BESS projects. The criticism came after the panel was told that the utility was forced to surrender contracted Round-The-Clock power during the daytime to make space for the excess solar power getting uploaded into the grid.

The power price

Additionally, the cost factor of Kerala's power dilemma cannot be ignored. The KSEB's annual expenditure on power purchases is huge; the utility's annual administration report shows that it spent ₹12,982.59 crore in 2023-24 and ₹12,749.65 crore in 2024-25. It is pertinent to remember that any additional spending on power procurement gets passed on to the consumers through thermal fuel surcharges in electricity bills.

The heat is also being felt on another front. A political row has erupted over a now-dead clutch of long-term power supply contracts. As Kerala awaits the results of its State Assembly elections, the Congress-led Opposition, the United Democratic Front, has blamed the summertime power crisis on the cancellation of a clutch of long-term power supply contracts on the Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate mode totalling 465 MW. While the decision to scrap the deals was taken by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission in 2023 citing irregularities, the Leader of Opposition, V.D. Satheesan has accused higher-ups in the Left Democratic Front government and the KSEB of conspiring to scuttle the contracts. The contracts, according to him, would have guaranteed Kerala cheap power till 2040. Mr. Satheesan has announced that the UDF, if it comes to power, would order an investigation into the "corruption" involved in the cancellations.

The predicaments faced by Kerala's power sector are not recent developments. Rather, they have built up over the decades alongside the rapid pace of urbanisation experienced by the State. If anything, the West Asia crisis and, in Kerala's case, the unrelenting 2026 summer, have served to underscore the importance of energy security, both at the national and regional levels. In recent years, it has become evident that Kerala would need to tap multiple sources – renewables and sustainable storage systems included – to reduce its dependence on outside agencies. From the government's side, this would require fast-tracking existing projects and carefully planning future ones. This would be a challenge for whoever forms the new government in Kerala after May 4.

West Bengal reports the most violence during poll season

Members and supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress were involved in or instigated most of the violent incidents

DATA POINT

Suchitra Karthikeyan
Gautam Nirmal Doshi

Trinamool Congress workers clashing violently with Aam Janata Unnayan Party founder Humayun Kabir in Murshidabad, during the first phase of the Assembly polls in West Bengal for 152 constituencies on April 23, is the latest of at least 74 violent incidents reported so far during the ongoing poll season.

Five people have been killed in poll-related violence since the Model Code of Conduct came into force from March 15, 2026, of whom three were Trinamool supporters, one a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter and the other not affiliated to any party. With the rest of the 142 constituencies in West Bengal going to polls on April 29, one has to wait to see how violent this poll season has been.

However, as per Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), West Bengal remained the most violent during polls in India. It accounted for nearly 60% of the 775 violent incidents reported during Assembly polls (in States with over 200 seats) since 2016 **(Chart 1)**. The 2021 Assembly polls, which saw a pitched battle between the Trinamool and the BJP, was the bloodiest with 278 violent incidents, as per ACLED.

Bloody trail

A look at four elections in West Bengal – the Assembly polls in 2016 and 2021, and the local body polls in 2018 and 2023 – shows that panchayat polls witnessed more violent incidents and fatalities. Such incidents jumped by 61.2%, from 172 in 2016 to 278 in the 2021 Assembly polls. Meanwhile, incidents of violence during the panchayat polls jumped sharply by 110%, from 155 in 2018 to 327 in 2023 **(Chart 2)**.

A closer look at ACLED's data showed that members of the ruling Trinamool were involved in or instigated most of the violent incidents **(Chart 3)**. Keeping in line with the diminished significance the CPI(M) (Communist Party of India (Marxist)) has in the State, violent incidents in which it was involved came down from 40 in 2016 to five in 2021. Meanwhile, the BJP, which is aggressively pursuing growth in the State, was involved in 125 incidents in 2021, compared to just eight in 2016. The BJP not only took the CPI(M)'s place in their involvement in violence, but was also at the receiving end of violence reportedly instigated by the Trinamool.

For instance, in 2016, Trinamool was involved in 118 of 172 violent incidents. Of the 39 cases in which Trinamool members were involved in violent clashes with members or supporters of other parties, 33 involved the CPI(M) and six were with the BJP.

In 2021, Trinamool was involved in 178 (64%) of the 278 violent incidents. In 108 cases, reportedly instigated by the ruling party, BJP was on the other side in 87 instances, followed by the CPI(M) in nine. Sixteen Trinamool supporters and 17 BJP supporters were killed in the incidents involving fatalities.

In 2018, of the 155 violent incidents, 102 involved mob violence. In 63 of those incidents (64.7%), members affiliated to the Trinamool were reportedly the instigators while BJP was at the receiving end in 20 instances, followed by civilians in 17 incidents, and rivals from within the Trinamool in 10.

2023 was the bloodiest year with Trinamool facing more fatalities. According to ACLED data, Trinamool was the perpetrator in 66 (33%) of the 198 violent incidents it was party to. Fatalities were reported in 60 incidents, with Trinamool suffering 30 fatalities, followed by the BJP (10), Congress (7) and four not affiliated to any party. The CPI(M) and the Indian Secular Front suffered three fatalities each.

Tainted by violence

The data for the charts were sourced from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED)

Strained tensions: Security personnel at the site after clashes broke out between supporters of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) and the ruling Trinamool (TMC) during the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, at Naoda, in Murshidabad, April 23. PTI

Chart 1: State-wise share of instances of violence reported during elections in the last decade. All figures are in %

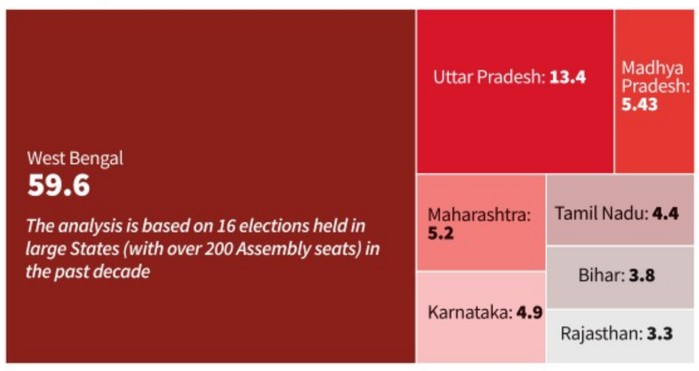
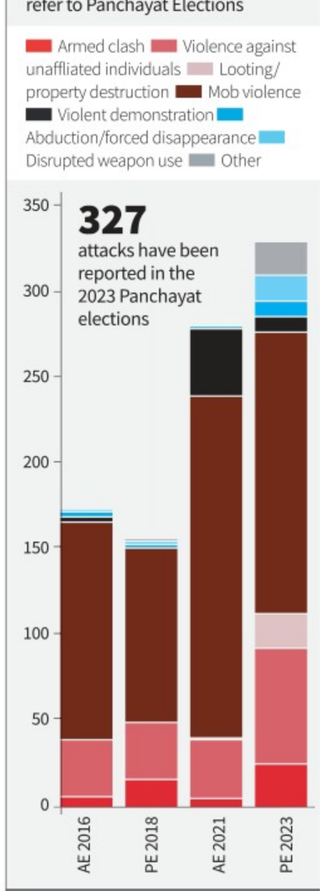
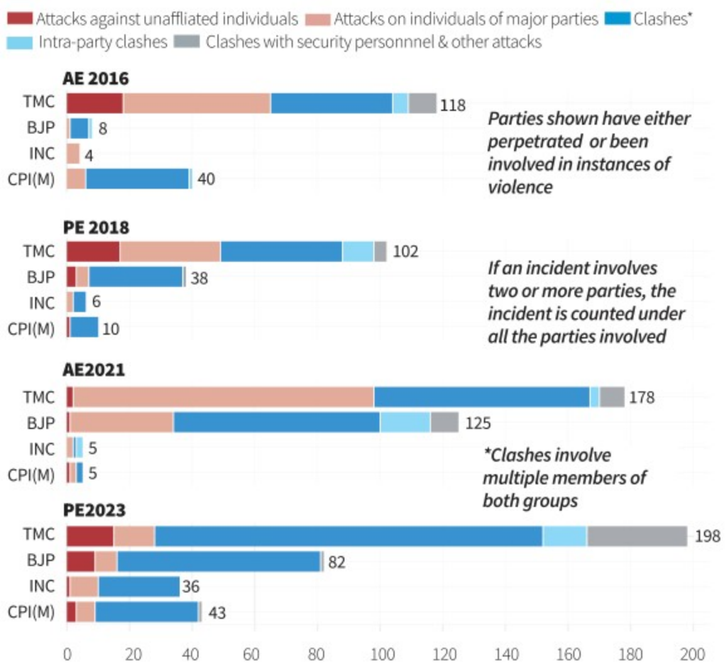

West Bengal
59.6
The analysis is based on 16 elections held in large States (with over 200 Assembly seats) in the past decade
Uttar Pradesh: 13.4
Madhya Pradesh: 5.43
Maharashtra: 5.2
Tamil Nadu: 4.4
Bihar: 3.8
Karnataka: 4.9
Rajasthan: 3.3

Chart 2: Events of violence recorded during West Bengal elections in the last decade. AE refers to Assembly Elections and PE refer to Panchayat Elections



Armed clashes include usage of bombs, grenades, and other explosives. Violence against unaffliated individuals also includes political violence against individual members, workers, and leaders

Chart 3: The reported involvement of parties in instances of violence across Assembly and Panchayat elections in West Bengal held between 2016 and 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 27, 1976

Anti-smuggling drive: Arab dhow to be used

Madras, April 25: The Madras Customs will shortly release into service a confiscated Arab dhow to intensify its anti-smuggling operations in the region, Mr. G. Sankaran, Collector of Customs, said on Saturday.

The dhow had been recently confiscated by the Bombay Customs, while it was engaged in smuggling operations between India and the Gulf countries.

Mr. Sankaran told Samachar that with the ocean-going dhow, the Customs staff would be able to intercept any catamaran or fishing vessel engaged in transporting contraband from ships for shore.

Already, the Madras Customs authorities were rummaging the ships even before they could enter the port. This practice had considerably reduced the chances of smuggling, he added.

Mr. Sankaran said the incidence of smuggling in the Madras region has come down considerably after September, 1974. With the Declaration of Emergency, the anti-smuggling operations had received a "further push" he added. The goods seized every month were worth about Rs. 10,000 and the availability of foreign fancy goods had now become "pretty low" in the city, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 27, 1926

Photos by phone

Recent developments in transmitting photographs long distances over the telephone have resulted in the establishment of a regular commercial service between New York, Chicago and San Francisco, says a press report. On an average the time taken to transmit a photograph seven by five inches is seven and a half minutes.

An X-ray photograph taken, say, in Chicago may be "telephoded" to New York for medical diagnosis by a specialist on payment of a small sum. The value of the new service for the rapid circulation of finger-prints of "wanted" criminals has already been satisfactorily tested by the New York Police.

When, recently, an important industrial company planned a new issue of stock, the final draft of the prospectus was so delayed that it was only by using the photo transmitting system that a simultaneous issue on both sides of the American continent was made possible.

From Page One

Trump safe after shooting; man held

"I extend my best wishes for their continued safety and well-being. Violence has no place in a democracy and must be unequivocally condemned," Mr. Modi said on X.

Authorities said Vice-President J.D. Vance was removed from the room first, while agents initially covered Mr. Trump in place before escorting him and First Lady Melania Trump from the room.

The shooting suspect was identified as Cole Tomas Allen of Torrance, California, according to two law enforcement officials.

The President said the gunman had left a manifesto, which he described as "strongly anti-Christian," without providing details.

The suspect sent writings to family members minutes before the shooting. The New York Post said the suspect had written in the note that his targets would be "prioritised from highest-ranking to lowest."

On Sunday, U.S. Acting Attorney-General Todd Blanche said that Mr. Trump and officials in his administration were the likely targets in the shooting incident.

Mr. Trump told presspersons at a late-night White House briefing that he believed he was the target of the attack. He said the Secret Service officer was saved by his bulletproof vest and was in "good shape". Later in an interview with Fox News, the President said the suspect's family had raised concerns about him to Connecticut Police ahead of the targeting of the gala. Mr. Trump described the suspect a "sick guy."

NATO leader Mark Rutte called it an attack "on our free and open societies" and leaders stressed violence had no place in a democracy.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was "shocked by the scenes" that had occurred in Washington. "Any attack on democratic institutions or on the freedom of the press must be condemned in the strongest possible terms," Mr. Starmer wrote on X.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the incident was "unacceptable". "Violence has no place in a democracy," he said on X.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Disqualify all seven defecting MPs, AAP tells Rajya Sabha Chairman

He termed the move by Mr. Chadha and the other MPs a "betrayal" of the people's mandate, and said he expected the Chairman to take an "unbiased" decision at the earliest.

Six of the seven MPs who quit the party were from Punjab.

"These members were elected by the AAP and later they chose to leave and join another party. This is a betrayal of the people of Punjab and also of the Constitution of India," Mr. Singh said.

New Zealand, India to sign FTA today; tariffs to go on all exports

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand will on Monday sign a Free Trade Agreement that will remove tariffs on 100% of India's exports to New Zealand, and either sharply reduce or remove tariffs on 95% of current imports from that country.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday took to social media to welcome Todd McClay, New Zealand's Minister for Trade & Investment, to New Delhi, ahead of the signing of the pact. "As we approach the #IndiaNZFTA signing on April 27th, his visit marks a defining moment in our bilateral journey, reflecting the trust, shared values, and common vision that underpin our partnership for sustainable economic growth, driving prosperity for both our nations," he said.

India's exports to New Zealand grew 32.1% in 2024-25 to $711.1 million, the latest full financial year for which there is data. Imports from New Zealand grew 75.2% to $587.1 million over the same period.

Duty-free access

The deal will provide India with immediate duty-free access on 100% of tariff lines.

This is down from the 10% tariff New Zealand currently levies on about 450 tariff lines that India exports, including textiles and apparel products, leather and headgear, ceramics, carpets, and automobiles and auto components.

On average, New Zealand levied a tariff of 2.2% in 2025, which will come down to zero under the agreement.

The pact between the countries is one of the fastest-negotiated trade agreements that India has entered into, with negotiations being announced in March 2025 and concluding in December.

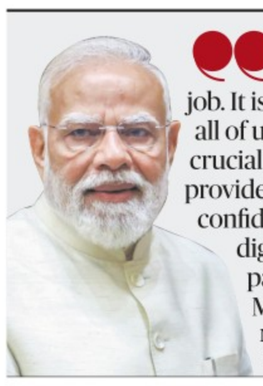
India has also managed to keep several items out of the FTA, including all dairy products such as milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese, animal products other than sheep meat, vegetable products such as onions, chana, peas, corn, and almonds, sugar, artificial honey, animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils, arms and ammunition, gems and jewellery, and copper and aluminium and their products.

The FTA includes a provision wherein New Zealand will invest $20 billion in India over 15 years. This is in the same vein as the $100 billion investment "commitment" the European Free Trade Association made in their FTA with India.

Modi hails India's strides in nuclear, wind energy

Prime Minister says civil nuclear programme has greatly helped different sectors; highlights that the country now ranks fourth in world in wind energy capacity; calls for Census participation

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



> The national Census is not just a government job. It is the responsibility of all of us. Your participation is crucial. The information you provide is completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security. Let us all participate in this process. Make Census 2027 a success
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the achievement of criticality in the fast breeder nuclear reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu as a "historic milestone in India's nuclear energy journey".

During his monthly *Mann ki Baat* address, the Prime Minister focused on India's nuclear and renewable energy efforts, as well as on various nature conservation initiatives being undertaken across the country.

He also urged citizens to take part in the Census 2027 enumeration process, saying the data collected were "completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security".

Nuclear pride

"India's civil nuclear programme has greatly helped everyone from agriculture to modern innovators," Mr. Modi said. "Friends, just a few days ago, our nuclear scientists enhanced India's pride with another major achievement. The fast breeder reactor in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, has achieved criticality."

He further explained that 'criticality' is the stage in which a reactor successfully executes a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction for the first time.

"This stage signifies the reactor entering the operational phase," Mr. Modi said.

"This is a historic milestone in India's nuclear energy journey. And importantly, this nuclear reactor is built entirely with indigenous technology."

Strides in wind energy

The Prime Minister also spoke about India's wind energy sector, saying that the country had recently achieved a major milestone with wind energy generation capacity exceeding 56 gigawatts (GW). He said that, in the past one year, about 6 GW of new capacity had been added.

"India is progressing rapidly in wind energy and the world is also looking towards us," he asserted. "Today India ranks fourth in the world in wind energy capacity. This is the hard work of our engineers, this is the diligence of our youth, this is a symbol of the collective willpower of the nation."

Mr. Modi noted that several States in India such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, were leading the charge in this sector.

"In areas like Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha in Gujarat, where previously only deserts were visible, large renewable energy parks are now being built," he said. "Youth are benefiting from this, creating new opportunities, developing new skills, and opening up new avenues for employment."

Crucial Census

Mr. Modi also spoke about the Census 2027 data collection process under way in the country, calling it the world's largest Census.

"Friends, the national Census is not just a government job," he said. "It is the responsibility of all of us. Your participation is crucial. The information you provide is completely secure, kept confidential, and protected with digital security. Let us all participate in this process. Make Census 2027 a success.

He further explained that Census 2027 had been made digital, with all information recorded directly in digital form by workers going door-to-door using a mobile app.

"This time your participation in the Census has also been made easier; you can enter your information yourself," Mr. Modi explained. "This facility will open for you 15 days before the worker's arrival. You can enter the information as per your convenience. When you complete the process, you receive a special ID . This ID will be sent to your mobile or email. Later, when the worker visits your home, you can verify the information by showing this ID."

This process, he added, eliminated the need to enter information again, thereby saving time and simplifying the process.

"In States where self-enumeration has been completed, Census staff have also begun the work of listing households," Mr. Modi said.

"So far, the house listing of approximately 12 million families has been completed," he added.

At *Chintan Shivir*, DNT enumeration in Census discussed

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry brought together Centre and State officials to discuss the future of its schemes for marginalised sections

The Social Justice Ministry on Sunday concluded a three-day "*Chintan Shivir*" (brainstorming session), during which the inclusion of denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes (DNTs) in the ongoing Census 2027 exercise was one of the key focus areas.

The DNT communities have been demanding a separate column or question in the Census forms, specifically to account for their populations across the country. Community leaders are also mobilising support for a separate Schedule for DNTs on a par with the lists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The Supreme Court dismissed a petition last month seeking a Census question for DNTs and a separate classification for them, leaving them the liberty to approach the government on the matter.

During the *Chintan Shivir*, the Social Justice Ministry brought together Centre and State government officials to discuss the future of its schemes for marginalised sections through panel discussions, breakout sessions and thematic meal sessions.

Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar said on Sunday that the sessions were "a serious and result-oriented platform for the Centre, States and Union Territories to reflect collectively on how social justice delivery can be made more accessible, responsive and implementation-driven".

The brainstorming session also discussed scholarship and hostel schemes for SC and OBC students, comprehensive support for transgender people and how to align schemes for them with the new amendments enacted by Parliament in 2026. While a central focus of the sessions on DNT welfare was the principal bottleneck issue of State and Union Territory governments not providing DNT community certificates, hindering their access to schemes, across different sessions, the issue of obtaining an accurate count of DNT populations across the country also kept coming up, officials said.

This comes even as members of Centre's Development Welfare Board for DNTs raise concerns over the lack of clarity on their enumeration in the ongoing Census. "As of now, we don't know if there will be a column for OBCs. So we don't know if there will be a DNT column as well or how this is going to be done," one Board official said.

Experts seek data-led approach to tackle public health risks

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The webinar "Public Health in India: From Reactive Care to Preventive Ecosystems" held on Saturday highlighted the urgent need to strengthen preventive healthcare, build data-driven systems, and develop a skilled public health workforce to address the country's evolving health challenges.

Organised by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in association with *The Hindu* as part of the Future Career Conversations series, the session focused on India's ongoing shift from a curative model of care to prevention-led public health systems.

Setting the context, Hari Singh, Dean, School of Public Health, SRMIST, outlined the wide range of public health challenges facing India, from infectious diseases to the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also noting persistent gaps such as the urban-rural divide and the need for more inclusive systems.

Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Principal Adviser, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, spoke about pandemic preparedness and broader health risks. "The lessons from the pandemic clearly show that preparedness, strong public systems, and global cooperation are critical," she said.

She also emphasised the need for stronger, evidence-based approaches and more robust data-driven surveillance systems, noting that "public health responses must increasingly rely on data to anticipate and manage risks effectively".

J. Amalorpavanathan, Member, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu, provided insights into Tamil Nadu's public health model. Explaining the State's structured systems and preparedness strategies, he noted that consistent policy focus, better investment in health and system readiness are key to improving health outcomes.

Prakash M., Associate Professor, School of Public Health, SRMIST, discussed the role of artificial intelligence and digital tools in public health. He said that "AI in public health is most effective when it builds on existing systems and strengthens decision-making," stressing the need for better integration of digital health architecture.

Participants raised questions on career opportunities and academic pathways in public health. The panellists highlighted the need for interdisciplinary skill sets, including epidemiology, data analysis, and policy understanding.

Discussions also touched upon emerging areas such as digital health systems and the growing relevance of technology in shaping future public health careers.

The session was moderated by Athira Elssa Johnson, Senior Reporter, *The Hindu*.

The webinar can be viewed at https://newsth.live/THSRMPY

Centre to resume talks on Ladakh on May 22

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said here on Sunday that discussions between the Union Home Ministry and civil society bodies would resume on May 22 on the demand for Statehood and inclusion of the Union Territory in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The announcement, ending an impasse, came days ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Ladakh on April 30 and May 1. The meeting of the sub-committee on political dialogue will carry forward the "constructive democratic dialogue with key stakeholders of Ladakh and pave the way for an enduring solution to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh", Mr. Saxena said.

The talks hit a stalemate after violence erupted in Leh last September, leaving four local people dead and over 80 injured. Following the riots, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was leading a street agitation, had been detained under the National Security Act for six months. The Centre formed a judicial commission last October to inquire into the circumstances that resulted in the violence.

The Centre's outreach earlier this month failed to fructify into any major achievements on the core demands of the civil society groups: the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance.

A Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson said Mr. Shah would arrive in Leh on April 30.

On May 1, he would pay respects to the holy relics of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima and "share his thoughts on the spiritual significance of the sacred exposition" being held in Ladakh from May 1 to 14.

Mr. Shah's visit "reflected the continued commitment of the Government of India towards the development and cultural heritage of Ladakh", the spokesperson said.

The exposition of the Buddha relics is on the theme "Peace beyond borders". "For the first time, these holy relics are being brought out of secure preservation in India for a special exhibition, giving the people of Ladakh a rare opportunity to witness and seek blessings," Mr. Saxena said.

Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory in 2019. Ladakh's demands include the establishment of a Public Service Commission and allocation of two Lok Sabha seats.

West Asia war, language on Israel derail joint statement at BRICS meet

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Attendees at the BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys meeting in New Delhi. PTI

Extended late-night parleys and heated debates marked the meeting of the 11-nation BRICS Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys in New Delhi that ended without a joint statement on Friday, *The Hindu* has learnt, indicating more trouble for India's BRICS Presidency this year.

While delegates from the United Arab Emirates and Iran sparred over the war in West Asia, a number of diplomatic and official sources present or briefed about the discussions said that the meetings on April 23-24 also saw an unexpected attempt by India to "tone down" language on Israel and Palestine, which was opposed by almost all other members.

The issues have set the stage for more difficult negotiations in the weeks ahead as BRICS Foreign Ministers are due to meet on May 14-15, with the summit scheduled for September 10-11. Many BRICS Foreign Ministers have confirmed they will attend the meeting next month, including Russia, China, Egypt, and Brazil.

In particular, sources present in the meetings said that officials from the Ministry negotiating the joint statement sought to amend paragraphs from BRICS summits in Brasilia in 2025 and Kazan in 2024.

These included softening language that criticised Israel for its bombardment of Gaza and Lebanon, as well as dropping a reference to "East Jerusalem" to be established as the capital of the Palestinian state as a part of the two-state solution. Ministry officials even sought to replace references of "Israel" while criticising its operations in the West Bank and Lebanon with the less direct term "occupying power".

"We were very surprised as India has agreed to such language at many multilateral fora," said a diplomat who asked not to be named. However, another diplomat pointed out that India had incorporated such changes during the India-Arab League Summit held in Delhi in January 2026. In bilateral statements, India stopped using the term "East Jerusalem" in 2017.

The MEA declined several requests for a response on whether India's position on Palestine was isolated at the meeting. "There was no change in India's position on the Palestine issue" a government source told PTI news agency on Sunday, attributing the lack of consensus to "sharp difference of positions among members who are party to the conflict".

NCSC seeks report on Mamata's 'derogatory' remark

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Sunday took *suo motu* cognisance of a video clip showing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allegedly using "derogatory" language against the SC community during an election rally.

The NCSC has written to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal and the Director-General of Police, directing them to submit a detailed report within three days.

The Commission referred to a video that appeared on "Kolkata TV" on April 26, regarding Ms. Banerjee's alleged remarks made during a rally in Kolkata's Chowringhee area recently while campaigning for a Trinamool candidate during the ongoing Assembly polls in the State.

"Suo-motu cognisance has been taken by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on a video that appeared in 'Kolkata TV' wherein derogatory language has been used by Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, against SC community," the notice stated.

"The Commission has decided to investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338 of the Constitution. You are hereby requested to submit an action taken report to the undersigned within 3 days," it said. NCSC Chairman Kishor Makwana said the Commission is committed to safeguarding the constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes.

For two women, a fight for justice in poll contest

BJP's Ratna Debnath, and Left Front's Sabina Yasmin, whose daughter died in post-poll violence in Nadia, have turned personal loss into questions of safety, governance, and State accountability

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Campaign trail: BJP's Ratna Debnath during an election rally at Panihati in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal; (right) CPI(M) candidate Sabina Yasmin interacts with people during a campaign in Nadia. PTI

Two mothers from different corners of West Bengal and from contrasting social backgrounds are contesting the Assembly elections with one aim: to bring justice to their daughters, who were killed in separate, gruesome incidents in the State.

Ratna Debnath, from the Panihati Assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas, has emerged as a key face of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s campaign. For Ms. Debnath, whose daughter – a doctor – was raped and murdered at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Hospital and Medical College in August 2024, the election is a personal quest for justice for her daughter.

PM's assurance

A few days ago, when she shared the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Panihati, she spoke about her daughter. "I want to make her name public," she said, prompting Mr. Modi to assure her that files relating to the case would be reopened after the polls.

Away from the media gaze, another mother is on a similar quest. Sabina Yasmin, whose nine-year-old daughter Tamanna Khatun died when crude bombs were hurled following the bypoll results in Nadia district's Kaliganj in July 2025, is the Left Front candidate from the seat.

She is fighting the election to ensure that her daughter's death due to political violence is accounted for.

'Our fight is the same'

"Our fight is the same. She is fighting for her daughter's justice, and so am I. The parties may be different, the politics may be different, but our fight is the same," Ms. Yasmin said of Ms. Debnath's candidature.

Though the two women are from opposing ends of the political spectrum, both aggrieved mothers have blamed the ruling Trinamool Congress and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for their daughters' deaths.

The deaths under different circumstances have raised questions about the role of the ruling establishment.

Tamanna Khatun was killed inside her home when bombs were allegedly hurled during victory processions organised by the Trinamool Congress workers in Kaliganj, raising concerns about the culture of political violence in the State.

The rape and murder of the young doctor at R.G. Kar Hospital by a former civic police volunteer in August 2024 became a watershed moment in West Bengal politics.

Widespread outrage, mourning and protest were witnessed for months.

The incident was the biggest challenge that the Mamata Banerjee-led government had to deal with in its third term.

Pursuit of justice

"My first priority will be to ensure justice for my daughter and not let any other 'Abhaya' happen in this State," Ms. Debnath has repeatedly said in her campaigns.

Ms. Debnath is contesting against the CPI(M)'s Kalatan Dasgupta, a key face of protests in the R.G. Kar incident, and Trinamool's Tirthankar Ghosh, son of Nirmal Ghosh, MLA, who was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation for allegedly tampering with evidence of the crime.

On the other hand, Ms. Yasmin is contesting against the BJP's Bapan Ghosh and Trinamool Congress candidate Alifa Ahmed, whose by-election victory in June 2025 and the subsequent celebratory processions were linked to the death of her minor daughter.

For both women, the electoral battle is deeply personal, shaped by grief and a search for justice. Their stepping into the political arena has transformed their individual tragedies into broader questions of safety, governance, and State accountability.

Mamata seeks Bhabanipur support, PM reaches out to Matuas in campaign last leg

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in Arambagh, West Bengal. PTI

With hours left for campaigning in the last phase of election in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday focused on issues concerning the Matua population, and said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would ensure citizenship to the community of Hindu refugees that has migrated from Bangladesh.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee focused on her constituency in Bhabanipur, where she held a roadshow. She raised several issues, including the deletions of under-adjudication voters from the electoral roll, and targeted the administration that has been appointed by the Election Commission. "Those who are arresting now must think about getting arrested in future. Sin spares no one," she said.

Mr. Modi held a public meeting at Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas, and said the Trinamool Congress openly opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. "Don't fall for the TMC's lies on CAA. All refugees will receive permanent address in this country... If someone votes for Trinamool, they will be making their ancestors sad," he said.

The Prime Minister, who offered prayers at the Matua temple in Thakurnagar, recalled his visit to Orakandi in Bangladesh ahead of the 2021 Assembly polls in West Bengal. The Matua sect of Namasudra Hindus originated from Orakandi in the 19th century and its followers have been migrating to Bengal.

"I pledge before the brothers and sisters of the Matua Namasudra community members that they will receive citizenship through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. They will be provided the same documents which other citizens of this country have," he said.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls has resulted in a significant number of voter deletions in the Matua community, resulting in uncertainty among them. The community has largely voted for the BJP in the past. Dozens of Assembly seats in North 24 Parganas and Nadia are dominated by the community, and its support will be crucial in determining the electoral fortune of the party.

Mr. Modi, who held another rally at Haripal in Hooghly, and a roadshow in north Kolkata, also touched on the issue of women's safety. Accusing the Trinamool of "sheltering goons who torture women", he said the BJP has given ticket to Sandeshkhali's Rekha Patra and the mother of the R.G. Kar victim, Ratna Debnath, and this proves the party's commitment to ensuring women's security.

In Bhabanipur, Ms. Banerjee began her campaign with a roadshow in Chakraberia and addressed four public meetings. The Trinamool chairperson, who is up against the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, walked for over 80 minutes from Chakraberia intersection to Hazra Fire Brigade and her procession went through several lanes and by-lanes.

Ms. Banerjee tried to assure the electorate that it has not faced any issues over the past 15 years that she has been in power. "I scored a century in the first round, I will do it again in the second round. BJP is scared. That's why they brought in the central forces. All the OCs (officers incharge of police stations) have been changed. They (BJP) are indulging in hooliganism. Cast your own vote. Keep a copy of the voter slip so that NRC cannot be implemented," she said.

Drug menace emerges as key plank in Amit Shah's campaign for Punjab polls

Nistula Hebbar
Vikas Vasudeva
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

Poll bugle: Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a rally at Moga in Punjab on March 14. ANI

Scarcely would the campaign trail for the West Bengal election grow cold when Union Home Minister Amit Shah directs his attention to Punjab, with a visit scheduled for next month, targeting the drug menace in the State, which shares an International Border with Pakistan.

The Assembly election in Punjab is due next year and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), by bringing seven Rajya Sabha members from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the State over to its side, has signalled that the battle has commenced.

Top sources in the BJP have told *The Hindu* that Mr. Shah will be visiting the State as often as once a month, throughout the year, covering each district.

A crackdown on the drug trade in the State will be a part of this. After the near disappearance of violent Left Wing Extremism in the country, the war against drugs is not just a political but a policy imperative for the Centre, said a source.

'No alliance with SAD'

BJP president Nitin Nabin, in a recent TV interview, has already announced that the party would be going alone in the Punjab polls, with no revival of its oldest alliance, with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on the anvil.

Over the years, the drug menace has remained a politically and socially significant issue in Punjab. In March, Mr. Shah, who sounded the party's poll-bugle at the "*Badlav* rally" in Moga, sought a chance to form the next government, promising that "the BJP will free Punjab from the scourge of drugs within two years".

Plans to contest solo

Pointing out that the BJP used to contest elections as a "younger brother" earlier, therefore its government could not be formed, Mr. Shah stated that in the 2027 Assembly election, the party will fight to form its own government in Punjab. The BJP and the SAD had been alliance partners since 1996 and had long contested Assembly elections together under a seat-sharing arrangement, with the SAD fielding candidates for 94 seats and the BJP for 23.

The BJP contested these electoral battles as a "junior partner" in the alliance, which many in the party's State unit believed restricted the BJP's growth beyond urban centres for years.

However, after the SAD chose to sever ties with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the contentious Central farm laws in 2020, the BJP has been pushing for its expansion across the State to achieve its solo ambitions.

While Punjab presents a distinct political landscape where religion, region and caste-based coalitions remain central to the State's electoral arithmetic, it appears that the BJP is placing the drug menace at the centre of its campaign strategy. "Unlike caste or religious identity, the drug crisis cuts across communal and regional lines and a sustained focus on its eradication could help the BJP build broader electoral appeal among sections of society," said a senior party leader.

BJP attacking Bengali culture, pride: Kejriwal; Modi won't have his way in Bengal: Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Arvind Kejriwal during a public meeting in support of Trinamool candidate Kunal Ghosh at Beleghata in Kolkata on Sunday. ANI

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday joined the Trinamool Congress campaign in West Bengal, addressing three election rallies – two in Kolkata and one in Howrah.

His visit comes during the last leg of poll campaign in the State. Campaigning for the second phase of the Assembly elections will conclude at 6 p.m. on Monday. A few days ago, the AAP suffered a major setback when seven of its 10 MPs crossed over to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Speaking at a public meeting in Beleghata in support of Trinamool candidate Kunal Ghosh, Mr. Kejriwal accused the BJP of deploying "all the Army and central forces" in the State as if "the people here are all terrorists". "This is an attack on Bengal, on Bengali culture and pride. You will have to reply to this," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal described the West Bengal Assembly election as a fight to save "the democracy" in the country and praised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while urging people to vote for the Trinamool. He alleged that the BJP had "captured" Delhi by framing him in false corruption cases, though courts had found him innocent.

"Today, they [BJP] have destroyed all the good work we did in Delhi. We built good schools, but they shut them. We built *mohalla* clinics and made bus travel free for women, but they stopped that. We made electricity free, and they are going to stop that, too. They will stop all the work *Didi* has done here if you accidentally vote for them," he said.

Tejashwi lauds Mamata

Along with Mr. Kejriwal, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav also campaigned for the Trinamool. Speaking at a public rally at Jorasanko in Kolkata, Mr. Yadav said Ms. Banerjee was "fighting like a tigress".

"The Prime Minister, the Home Minister, all BJP Chief Ministers, the ED, the CBI and also *'godi* media' (partisan media) are all against Mamata *Didi*, but she is fighting like a tigress, and Modi*ji* will not have his way in West Bengal," the RJD leader said.

While Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Yadav are campaigning in the State in support of the Trinamool Congress, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has launched scathing attacks on the State government and Ms. Banerjee.

Mr. Gandhi, who has held multiple public rallies, accused the Trinamool Congress leadership of paving the way for the BJP in West Bengal. On Saturday, Mr. Gandhi accused both the BJP and the Trinamool of corruption and misrule.

Trinamool running a reign of terror in West Bengal, says Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Ahead of the final phase of polling for the West Bengal Assembly election, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused the ruling Trinamool Congress of running a reign of terror in the State.

"In West Bengal today, it is not democracy but TMC's reign of terror that prevails. Intimidating, attacking, and eliminating opposing voices after votes are cast – this has become the defining character of TMC," Mr. Gandhi wrote in a social media post flagging the murder of a Congress worker. Debdeep Chatterjee, a share trader, was beaten to death allegedly by a mob in Asansol on Saturday after an argument broke out when his car brushed against a parked motorbike near his home.

The Congress's West Bengal unit, in a post on X, said that Mr. Chatterjee worked closely with Asansol North Congress candidate Prasenjit Puitandi. It further said that the "victim was attacked and beaten by miscreants" linked to the ruling Trinamool and died of his injuries shortly thereafter.

Quoting this post Mr. Gandhi, extended his deepest condolences to the grieving family and called the murder by "TMC-affiliated goons" as "utterly reprehensible".

He said the Congress's politics has never been based on violence, nor will it ever be.

Trinamool files case over 'misuse of National Flag'

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday lodged a complaint against BJP candidate Papia Adhikari, alleging misuse of the National Flag during election campaign in the Tollygunge Assembly constituency in south Kolkata.

The complaint was filed by Trinamool leader Kohinoor Mazumdar.

INBRIEF

Pawan Khera moves SC against rejection of bail plea

Congress leader Pawan Khera moved the Supreme Court on Sunday, challenging the Gauhati High Court's rejection of his anticipatory bail plea in a first information report (FIR) registered on his alleged remarks that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife held multiple passports and assets abroad. The High Court had rejected the pre-arrest bail petition on the ground that custodial interrogation was necessary to unearth the source of his accusations. The High Court, in its decision on April 24, declined to accept Mr. Khera's contention that his comments were merely political rhetoric.

PM to launch development projects in Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to make a two-day visit to Uttar Pradesh from April 28 to 29. On April 28, in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, Mr. Modi will participate in a Mahila Sammelan, where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth about ₹6,350 crore. He will visit the Kashi Vishawanath temple on the following day and is scheduled to dedicate the Ganga Expressway to the nation in Hardoi. He will also lay the foundation stone of the Varanasi Junction-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction third and fourth railway line project, including the rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga.

Images that eloquently told the story of India in light and shade

The story of Raghu Rai, who passed away on Sunday, is intricately linked with that of the country; from capturing the stately presence of Indira Gandhi to documenting the Bhopal gas tragedy, his photographs have frozen moments of history

Ziya Us Salam

Language may be used to obfuscate the truth. An image never lies. Raghu Rai's countless images often with their quiet optimism and occasionally brooding pessimism, never did. A testimony to a country as much at ease with the gentle religiosity of the eternal refugee, the Dalai Lama, and the endlessly healing Mother Teresa as with the silent eloquence of a frame of a Satyajit Ray film or the stately presence of Indira Gandhi captured in a frame sitting in her office, signing some papers even as her Ministers, all men, stand around her.

Then there were timeless frames of a blind Muslim beggar finding his way leaning on the shoulder of a Hindu girl with mental disabilities and another one of a *chaiwala* precariously perched at the gate of a moving train with his tray, cups and saucers.

For the record, Rai, who passed away at the age of 83 on Sunday, after battling cancer for two years, was a print photographer whose association with the *Statesman*, beginning 1966, has been recounted almost as often as his images have been debated before being embraced. He worked for *Sunday* and *India Today* too, but, essentially, he was his own man, doing his own thing. In his own fashion, documenting the times he lived in.

Rai's story is intricately linked with that of India. Without either, the story would be incomplete. In the lap of the Himalayas, Rai found peace at the feet of the Dalai Lama. On one occasion, he had gone to capture the face of serenity. Two monks flanked a little maroon sheet, as Rai prepared for the shoot. Then came the Dalai Lama and in the humility which was always his companion, he asked Rai, "Where do you want me to stand?" A little later, Rai's photo spoke as precisely, the interplay of light and shadow, the intensity of the purpose being balanced with the gentleness of nature.

Rai followed the Ganga trail; capturing its beauty, its religiosity with such depth as to make infinity intelligible. Much the same time when access to power, to its proximity was not negotiated but more instinctive. His images of Indira Gandhi are as much a part of history as she is. In fact, modern history is nothing without people like Raghu Rai. Mrs. Gandhi's images by him were not just portraits, but studies in authority and theatre, often with an almost subversive choreography of those around her. Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama, his other recurring presences, were rendered not as icons, but as centres of gravity. Access in those simpler times could almost be gained by owning a camera alone and not by lying supine at the feet of our political masters as is the case now.

What set him apart, though, was not just access, but intent.

"Photography, for me, is *darshan*," he said. "You have to make yourself available mentally, physically, spiritually to the moment." It sounds lofty until you see the work. Then it feels like a simple fact.

His range was equally telling. Nearly 20 books, moving effortlessly from the humble tree to the human body, from the public moment to the private study.

There was no hierarchy in what deserved attention, only in how deeply it was seen.

Our interactions were occasional, but never forgettable. Raghu had little patience for the banal or the derivative, and even less inclination to disguise that impatience. I remember a call after an issue of *Architectural Digest* had devoted itself to photography. He was unimpressed vocally of some of the other imagery and insisted I write to the editor and register what he clearly felt was a collective lapse in judgment. It wasn't a suggestion.

His views on the contemporary photographic landscape were, unsurprisingly, unsparing. He saw much of it as noise: too many images, too little intent. A "fast-food attitude", as he once put it, where the ease of digital had eroded both discipline and depth.

There were, of course, contradictions. Raghu, in his earlier years, was famously dismissive of advertising photography. The idea that manufactured images could command such fees seemed, to him, faintly absurd. He viewed those of us navigating that world with a mix of curiosity and suspicion.

He was often miserly with his praise for his peers. I once tried, on stage, to nudge him into acknowledging many of the derivative pitfalls of contemporary photography practices. He declined with a silence as he didn't want to share his own huge disquiet on this aspect in public.

I also remember the great uproar around staged imagery in photography in the case of Steve McCurry. To some of us, the outrage felt misplaced because photography has always negotiated and often reconstructed the real. For him, the problem was never construction, it was emptiness. As he once remarked, without years of *tapasya*, most experimentation was merely surface – "form and texture" without energy.

Of the thousands of his photographs that shaped my visual memory, the one that stayed strangely was not a sweeping wide-angle, but a tight close-up of Muhammad Ali, headgear on, likely shot at the National Stadium in the early 80s at a public exhibition bout. That image shifted something fundamental in me. Away from spectacle, toward stillness. Away from the expansive frame, toward the quiet portrait.

And then, the last time I saw him was in February 2026. Frail, masked, being wheeled in for a lifetime achievement award. Still unmistakably Raghu Rai, present and observing. There was a brief acknowledgment across the room, a small wave. It felt less like farewell and more like a final edit – precise, unsentimental.

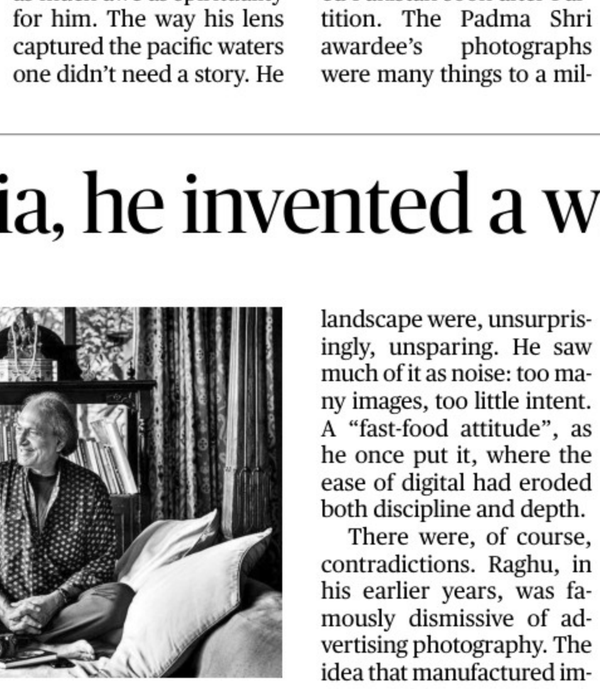
"Wherever I go, my *darshan* is through my camera," he had said. "I meet my god through it."

Raghu Rai didn't just photograph India. He invented a way of seeing it.

He has taken his last breath, which, once upon a time, according to rumour, we all want to believe, could alter the texture of an image in the dark room.

Goodbye Maestro, you were always the first among equals.

(Rohit Chawla is an artist whose lens has captured the pulse of contemporary India. His imagery blends artistic intuition, political activism, and portraiture into a fine-art aesthetic.)



RAGHU RAI (1942-2026)

'Meeting god'

He was born in 1942, the year of Quit India; his parents quit the newly created Pakistan soon after Partition. The Padma Shri awardee's photographs were many things to a million people. For Rai, they were life. As he once told this correspondent, "Without my camera, I am nothing. Indeed, without a memory a human being is like a ripple in the river, when and where it starts, where it ends, nobody knows. For me, photography started as a bid to freeze memories."

He was a protégé of Henri Cartier-Bresson, who nominated Rai, then an upcoming photojournalist, to join Magnum Photos in 1977. He was to go on to raise photo journalism to an art, holding retrospectives in New Delhi and London besides exhibitions in the U.S., Finland, Australia, Hong Kong, and the Netherlands. Wherever people could read and see, Rai's work was admired. Most notably Bhopal after the gas tragedy in 1984. He was generous to the talented, appreciative of the skilful, and impatient of delays and dilettantes. Understandable for someone so blessed, so devoted that his art itself became a form of worship.

"I meet my god through my camera," he once said.

Rich legacy: What set Raghu Rai apart was not just access, but intent. ROHIT CHAWLA

He chronicled the soul of India for six decades: Rahul

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Sunday condoled the death of photographer Raghu Rai, and said his lens chronicled the soul of India and preserved the nation's memory.

"Raghu Rai *ji*'s lens chronicled the soul of India for over six decades – its people, its struggles, its joys, and its defining moments," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X. "He didn't just take photographs, he preserved our nation's memory," he said.

"My heartfelt condolences to his family, his colleagues, and the countless admirers his work touched across generations," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of legendary photojournalist #RaghuRai. Through his lens, he chronicled the spirit of India, its people and everyday life, which will remain etched in our collective memory," Mr. Patnaik said in a post on X.

"His frames were not mere pictures, but living histories. May his legacy inspire generations of storytellers," he added.

Raghu Rai didn't just photograph India, he invented a way of seeing it

TRIBUTE

Rohit Chawla

I came to Raghu Rai before I came to photography.

As a young, 18-year-old inconsequential boy shooting for a city magazine, more to fund a relationship than any artistic calling, photography was a means to an end, until his images began to intrude – in passing at first, then completely. They didn't just influence what I shot, they altered what I thought a photograph could hold.

His series on Indian musicians for *India Today* remains, for me, among the finest editorial work produced in this country. But it wasn't just the subject, it was the construction. The audacity of his wide-angle lens, the tension he seemed to choreograph at the edges of the frame, even the recurring crows, improbably present, as if domesticated into his compositions, added a cinematic aside long before cinema caught up with that language.

"I am partial to the wide angle," he once told me, "because even when I photograph a person, I want the atmosphere, the surrounding, the simultaneity of moments."

That instinct to hold not just the subject, but the world around it was perhaps his greatest signature.

And then the prints. The darkroom, in his hands, was less a process and more a mythos. Stories circulated, half technical and half mystical, of his dodging, his burning, even of his breath playing a role in tonal gradation before the image met the fixer. Whether apocryphal or not, it hardly mattered. The prints had a density, a depth, that felt authored beyond the negative. This was long before software flattened both image and imagination.

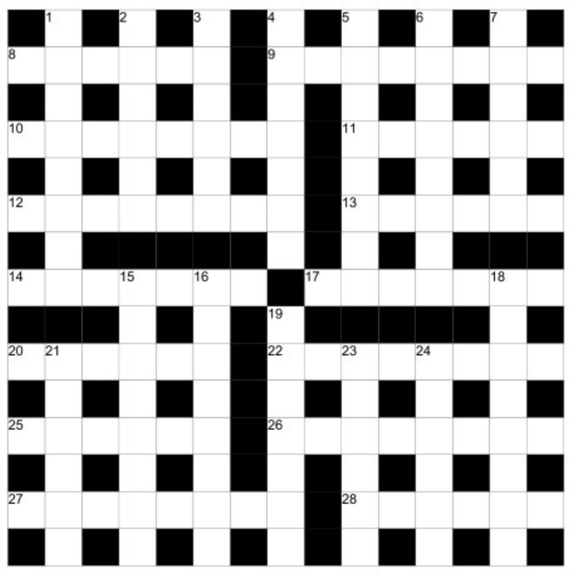
He also belonged to a

TH CROSSWORD + 14778

(set by Mythical)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

8. Daughter & son expelled from Budapest oddly cheerful (6)
9. Spooner's female animal sickens, sends away to destination by plane (8)
10. Access transport (8)
11. Roman God's mercurial nature's devoid of malice ultimately (6)
12. Reprimand student leader of institute at first and release (8)
13. A lawyer limits information to items on the list (6)
14. This worry duly affected young ladies (7)
17. Study this site regularly for one working with canines (7)
20. Spice container overturned by little woman (6)
22. Impressive old queen enthralled by drawing (8)
25. Appallingly, a scar seen around one part of the lung (3,3)
26. Firm about basically selling off musical instrument (8)
27. Major celebrity playing games with sailor (8)
28. Summon judge after rabbi's knocked out by a follower (6)

DOWN

1. Son awaiting disbursement of money (8)
2. Primarily, director establishes clear rules, ensuring equity and order (6)
3. Mostly tolerate unknown amateur's lines (6)
4. Food supplier made a mess of terrace (7)
5. Serbian boy beaten up somewhere in Australia (8)
6. Try drinking Italian wine, it's most flavoursome (8)
7. Red-faced female aristocrat seen outside inn initially (6)
15. Soldier from the south to demand a royal salutation (8)
16. Story supported by urban wisdom (8)
18. Reportedly failed to elude authority (8)
19. No time? First try cooking Chinese style dish (4-3)
21. After being written up, some cadet in Utah co-operated (6)
23. On reflection, one graduate identified Japanese condiment (6)
24. Remains briefly in cast, frequently ignored (6)

SUDOKU

3		9			8			2
			9	2			6	
			7		6	4		
	2					7	4	8
	3						1	
1	7	5					2	
		4	6		7			
	9			4	2			
7			3			6		4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6863 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	8	9	5	3	4	6	2
6	4	9	7	2	8	3	1	5
3	2	5	6	4	1	8	7	9
2	9	6	5	3	7	1	8	4
5	8	7	1	6	4	2	9	3
4	3	1	2	8	9	6	5	7
8	6	4	3	7	5	9	2	1
9	5	2	4	1	6	7	3	8
7	1	3	8	9	2	5	4	6

FAITH

Nine paths of devotion

Sri Desika Srinivasa Tathachariar explained in a discourse that there are nine types of devotion, shaped by the temperament and inclination of each individual. King Parikshit exemplified *Sravanam* – immersing himself in listening to the divine glories of God. Sage Suka Brahmam embodied *Kirtanam*, constantly narrating and glorifying the Lord through sacred discourse. Child devotee Prahlada lived in *Smaranam*, maintaining uninterrupted remembrance of God at all times. Goddess Mahalakshmi represents *Paadasevanam*, offering service at the Lord's feet.

In the same way, King Prithu exemplified *Archanam* – the path of devoted worship through rituals and offerings performed with sincerity and discipline. Akrura embodied *Vandanam*, expressing deep devotion through prostration, reverence, and heartfelt salutations to the Lord.

Garuda, the king of birds, and Hanuman exemplified *Dasyam* – the path of selfless service, dedicating every act to the Lord. Arjuna embraced *Sakhyam*, relating to the Divine as a close friend, sharing trust and intimacy with Krishna. Finally, King Mahabali represents *Aatmanivedanam*, offering himself completely in total surrender to the Lord. Together, these examples complete the spectrum of devotion, showing that whether through service, friendship or total surrender, every sincere path leads one closer to the Divine. Thus, the nine forms of Bhakti are like different rivers, all ultimately merging into the same vast ocean of divine grace and eternal bliss. The ultimate fruit, "*Moksham*" (liberation), is assured for all these nine forms of devotion, though the approaches may differ (*Mukthi: Navaanaam Phalam*).

ASKUS

Vaishali R Venkat

I have invested in a small-cap fund (Direct plan-growth) through SIP for quite some time, but it's highly volatile. Now, I want to invest in a more stable fund, such as a multi-cap or a flexi-cap fund. I want to switch to another fund and also minimise my tax liabilities. Is it possible to switch from one fund to another?
NARINDER GAUTAM

First of all, thank you for showing interest in *The Hindu Moneywise*. The word 'stable' in markets can be tricky.
Even flexi-cap and multi-cap funds are not always stable and can witness volatility and declines at times.
If stability is your priority, stocks and mutual funds may not be suitable, as they are inherently volatile and are better suited for long-term investing, say five to seven years at least. For short-term, you can park your funds in instruments such as FDs, RDs, or certain debt funds.
With regard to switching funds, even within the same fund house, it is treated as a redemption (selling of units). If you exit with a profit, capital gains tax will apply, depending on the holding period of your units.
If you exit at a loss, it erodes your capital, though such losses can be set off against gains for tax purposes. In both cases, you also need the discipline to reinvest the lump sum into another fund, without spending it upfront.
A simpler approach could be to pause or cancel your future SIP instalments, while retaining the accumulated units/amount without redeeming.
Further, you can redirect the future SIP contributions into a new fund of your choice.
This approach offers several advantages. It works by separating your past SIP accumulations from your future investment decisions.
Since you are not redeeming your existing units, there is no sale taking place, and therefore no immediate capital gains tax arises.
Likewise, if the fund is currently at a loss, you also avoid booking a loss by staying invested.
In effect, your existing corpus stays invested and it gets an opportunity to regain value over time. Additionally, since there is no redemption, you also bypass the exit load (if applicable) that is typically charged when units are redeemed within a short holding period, especially under one year. Above all, as per your wish, you also get an opportunity to redirect your future monthly contributions into a fund of your choice.
Another behavioural advantage: since you are not redeeming and receiving a lump sum in your bank account, you reduce the risk of spending the money impulsively. This approach creates a balanced strategy where you minimise taxes and costs, avoid premature loss realisation, and gradually improve the quality of your portfolio through future investments.

Sir, I am a senior citizen with total taxable income below the taxable threshold. Currently, banks and other financial institutions deduct TDS on the interest from my deposits. So, can I submit Form 15H to banks and institutions from April 2026 to avoid TDS and claim a refund later?
M. VIJAYARAGHAVAN

Sir, from April 1, 2026, both the Forms 15G & 15H were replaced by a new unified Form No. 121. From this financial year onwards, all eligible taxpayers, both below and above 60 years of age, will only have to submit Form No. 121, and the earlier Forms are no longer valid.
Form 121 applies to income such as PF withdrawals, pension, rental income, interest on deposits, insurance commission, income from mutual funds, dividends, and proceeds from life insurance policies.
HUFs are eligible to use this form, whereas companies, firms, and non-residents are not. Please note that Form 121 must be submitted separately to each bank or financial institution from which you earn interest income.
(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Cause and effect: A weaker currency leads to something called imported inflation. ILLUSTRATION: SAINATH B.

Rupee depreciation and its impact on investments

The correction we are witnessing in the equity market is due to multiple reasons and rupee depreciation is just one of them; this is not something under your control and to worry about

CURRENCY CAULDRON

Joydeep Sen

In the recent past, there has been lot of apprehensions on the weakening of our currency, and rightly so. For a perspective on the extent of weakening of INR, over the past few decades, it depreciates on an average 2.5% to 3% per year against the U.S. Dollar.

We as a growing economy import a lot, higher than our exports, and to manage this, our currency depreciates. The issue in the recent past has been that in 2025-26, INR moved from 85.53 to the greenback on March 31, 2025 to 92.76 on March 30, 2026 i.e. a depreciation of 8.45%. If we look at the intermediate low point of 94.71 on March 23, 2026, till that point of time, our currency had depreciated 10.73%. How does this impact you?

Equity investments
The exchange rate does not have much of a direct impact on the equity market, as long as you are investing in India.

Currency depreciation does have a negative impact on sentiments in the market, but the market is the confluence of 'n' number of factors, and we see the movement as the cumulative effect.

The correction we are witnessing in the equity market is due to multiple reasons e.g. selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), crude oil price flaring up, etc., and rupee depreciation is just one of those reasons. This is not something under your control and you need not worry much about this.

> High inflation is a negative for both equity and bond markets, but more so for the bond market as inflation is a bigger variable for interest rates

Debt investments
Weaker currency leads to something called imported inflation. As an example, when we import crude oil, there is a certain price in U.S. dollars. That gets converted to our currency at the prevailing exchange rate. Weaker the currency, higher is the landed price.

This adds to our inflation. High inflation is a negative for both equity and bond markets, but more so for the bond market as inflation is a bigger variable for interest rates. A weak INR would contribute to imported inflation going forward.

The RBI, in the policy review on April 8, 2026, projected consumer price inflation at 4.6% in 2026-27. For this projection, the RBI assumed normal monsoon (which is a question mark now), crude oil price at $85/ barrel (lower than current prevailing price) and INR at 94 (weaker than current level). That is to say, currency weakness has already been factored in, for projecting inflation at 4.6%. Going forward, if currency does not depreciate significantly from current level, it should not be a major concern for your investments.

> Allocation to gold should be say 10% of your portfolio, or maximum 15 %. The rationale is, gold is not a mainstream investment like equity or bonds

We discussed so far, the adverse impact of rupee depreciation on your portfolio. There are two investment avenues that benefit from this. One is gold. There is an international price of gold denominated in U.S. dollars.

This gets converted to rupees at the prevailing exchange rate. Weaker the rupee, higher is the INR price of gold. History shows that the returns gold has given us, over the decades, while the major part is gold price movement per se (in USD), a substantial chunk is due to weakening of our currency. The learning is, you should have some allocation to gold in your portfolio.

Having said that, allocation to gold should be say 10% of your portfolio, or maximum 15 %. The rationale is, gold is not a mainstream investment like equity or bonds.

The other investment that benefits from currency weakness is global investments. When you invest in stocks or bonds or funds in USA (or any other country), it gets converted from INR to USD (or any other currency). When you redeem your investments, it gets converted back to INR. During the investment period, if rupee depreciates (which it usually does), you get that benefit as well. You can invest abroad though relevant Mutual Fund products available in India. You can invest directly in stocks or bonds or other avenues abroad, which would be part of the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit. Outbound products available at GIFT City are part of the LRS limit.

Expenses
Your expenses in India are impacted due to inflation i.e. purchasing power of rupee comes down progressively. Even if part of this inflation is due to currency weakening, it is not under your control, and you cannot do much about it. Rather, if it is about your expenses abroad, in USA or any other country, then there is something you can do. Apart from expenses, you can look at investing abroad as part of portfolio allocation and get the benefit of diversification. If and when expenses crop up, which you are envisaging now, you can redeem to the extent required, otherwise let it continue.

(Joydeep Sen is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Arriving at terminal wealth

THINKINVESTOR

Terminal wealth, which is the amount you need at the end of the time horizon for a goal, should be enough to fund the goal after paying taxes. But accounting for taxes is easier said than done

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

The amount you need at the end of the time horizon for a goal is referred to as terminal wealth. In this article, we discuss how to determine the terminal wealth for a goal. We also look at how to adjust for taxes on goal-based investments, as taxes can impact a goal's terminal wealth.

Tax drag
Suppose you want to provide for your child's college education ten years hence. As the first step, you must find out the current cost of college education for a branch of study you believe your child will pursue. For other goals such as buying a house, you must consider the current cost of buying your desired house. Next, you must consider the inflation related to the goal. A search on the Internet suggests that education inflation is 10%. Suppose the education you want your child to have costs ₹25 lakh today. You must determine how much it would cost 10 years hence at 10% inflation. That would be the terminal wealth required for the life goal.

The above calculation is simple but ignores the effect of taxes on the terminal wealth.

The terminal wealth should be enough to fund the goal after paying taxes. But accounting for taxes is easier said than done. This is because of two reasons. One, it is typical for individuals to invest in bank deposits for their bond allocation. The interest income on deposits is taxed annually on an accrual basis.

And two, you must rebalance your portfolio starting five years from the end of the time horizon for the goal. This means you could incur long term capital gains tax on your equity investments in the years you rebalance. The impact of taxes on your portfolio returns is referred to as the tax drag.

Conclusion
You can adjust for the tax drag by projecting the proportion of equity and bonds in the portfolio through the time horizon for a goal considering your rebalancing process. Then, you must adjust the portfolio value each year for taxes. But all this defeats the objective of keeping your investment process simple. An easier approach is to add, say, 10-15% to the pre-tax terminal wealth as buffer for taxes. Alternatively, you could decide that any shortfall in terminal wealth because of tax drag can be made good with surplus cash or from additional borrowings taken at the end of the time horizon for a life goal.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 1 year — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 1 year — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50-21.00	10,747-13,527	2,149-2,705	Upto 2.5% (Maximum Rs 25,000)
Citi Bank	9.99-16.49	10,621-12,290	2,124-2,458	Upto 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 2.75%
ICICI Bank	10.50-19.00	10,747-12,970	2,149-2,594	Upto 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.00-15.60	10,624-12,053	2,125-2,411	Rs 1,000-10,000
State Bank of India	9.60-13.85	10,525-11,595	2,105-2,319	Upto 1.5% (Maximum Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	12.00-21.00	11,122-13,527	2,224-2,705	1.5%-2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.75-24.00*	10,809-14,384	2,162-2,877	Upto 2.5%
Bank of India	9.35-12.35	10,464-11,211	2,093-2,242	Upto 2% (Maximum Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	10.20-13.90	10,673-11,608	2,135-2,322	Upto 0.5%
Punjab National Bank^	8.95-14.50	10,367-11,764	2,073-2,353	Upto 1%
HSBC Bank	9.75-15.00	10,562-11,895	2,112-2,379	Upto 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%
Union Bank of India	8.90-13.00	10,355-11,377	2,071-2,275	Upto 0.5% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	13.00 onwards	11,377 onwards	2,275 onwards	Upto 4%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.50-11.50	10,501-10,996	2,100-2,199	Upto 1%
South Indian Bank	10.15-14.45	10,660-11,751	2,132-2,350	2%
IDBI Bank	9.50-14.00	10,501-11,634	2,100-2,327	1% (Minimum Rs 2,500)
UCO Bank	10.05-10.45	10,636-10,735	2,127-2,147	Upto 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Upto 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.55-12.90^^	10,513-11,351	2,103-2,270	Upto 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	12.05	11,135	2,227	Upto 0.75%
Indian Bank	9.05-13.65	10.391-11,544	2,078-2,309	1%**
Dhanlaxmi Bank	11.90-15.70	11,097-12,079	2,219-2,416	Upto 2.5% (Minimum Rs 1,250)
IndusInd Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	2.5% onwards

*For pensioners, NIL processing fees for loan upto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh, Tenure 1 year — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.20-9.40	10,186-10,477	Up to Rs. 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.05-8.90	10,150-10,355	NIL upto 30th September 2022
Bank of Baroda	7.95-11.25	10,126-10,934	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	8.30-11.00	10,210-10,871	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
Bank of India	8.25-9.95	10,198-10,611	NIL
UCO Bank	8.05	10,150	1% (Upto Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	7.80-8.65	10,090-10,294	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.60 - 9.90	10,282-10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.20-11.70	10,186-11,047	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank	8.95	10,367	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	8.10 onwards	10,162 onwards	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.35 onwards	10,222 onwards	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.61-10.66	10,283-10,787	0.5% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Federal Bank	9.90	10,599	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	8.20-11.40	10,186-10,971	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	10.55-12.00	10,759-11,122	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	13.00-13.50	11,377-11,505	1% (Min: Rs 250)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

Rates and charges as on February 15 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

BELFAST

N. Ireland police suspect dissident republicans in latest car bombing

AP

Northern Ireland police said on Sunday they suspect dissident republicans could be behind an overnight car bomb attack outside a police station near Belfast. Politicians denounced the incident, with First Minister Michelle O'Neill from the pro-Irish Sinn Fein party saying those behind the attack "speak for absolutely no one". AFP

JOHANNESBURG

Taiwan Minister hits out at China, says island will not bow to pressure

AP

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung on a visit to Eswatini slammed China's move to pressure African nations into revoking travel permits, saying it will not "bow its head." Taiwan's President postponed a trip to Eswatini last week after "Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar revoked the charter's overflight permits". AFP

DAMASCUS

Syrian court begins first public trial of ousted leader Assad and allies

AP

A Syrian court conducted the first hearing on Sunday in the trial of ousted ruler Bashar al-Assad and senior figures from his government. Mr. Assad and his brother Maher have fled Syria and will be tried in absentia, but one of their relatives, former security official Atef Najib, was present in the courtroom. AFP

BOGOTA

Explosive device kills 20 on bus in Colombia amid rising violence

REUTERS

An explosive device killed 20 people travelling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's Army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 30 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking escalates. At least 26 incidents have taken place in the past two days in the southwest region. AP

Israel and Hezbollah call out Lebanon truce breach

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel and Hezbollah traded blame over violations of the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon on Sunday, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting the Iran-backed group as both sides claimed new attacks.

The accusations came as the foes said they carried out fresh attacks in southern Lebanon.

"Hezbollah's violations are, in practice, dismantling the ceasefire," Mr. Netanyahu said. Under the terms of the truce, which was recently extended, Israel says it has the right to respond to planned, imminent or ongoing attacks

Hezbollah said its fighters targeted Israeli troops in response to their ceasefire violations. "The enemy's continued ceasefire violations... and above all its continued occupation of Lebanese territory will be met with a response and a resistance," it said in a statement.

Araghchi heads to Russia after diplomatic push in Pakistan

Iran's top diplomat made a second visit to Islamabad as it works to save negotiations with the U.S.; departs for Moscow to meet Putin; Trump says Tehran can contact the U.S. if it wants to negotiate

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi returned to Islamabad on Sunday, ping-ponging from capital to capital as mediators hoped to keep peace talks between Tehran and the United States alive.

Mr. Araghchi visited Oman's Muscat on Saturday after leaving Pakistan, and left Moscow after his second visit to the Pakistani capital to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, but there remained no indication that direct U.S.-Iranian talks would resume.

On Saturday, U.S. President Donald Trump scotched a planned trip to Islamabad by his negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

But in a sign that indirect efforts were ongoing, the Fars news agency reported that Iran had transmitted "written messages"

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (left) meets Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during the latter's first visit on April 25. AFP

to the Americans via Pakistan that were "about some of the red lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz".

Those messages were not, however, part of any negotiations, Fars said.

There had been hopes for a new round of talks on Saturday, with Mr. Witkoff and Mr. Kushner due to visit Islamabad, but Mr. Trump later told Fox News he had scrapped the trip, saying there was no point "sitting around talking about nothing".

On Sunday, Mr. Trump told the channel: "I said, we're not doing this anymore. We have all the cards. If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us, you know there is a telephone, we have nice secure lines."

Domestic pressure

The President is under growing domestic pressure, with petrol prices in the United States pushed up by Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz and midterm elections scheduled for November.

Mr. Araghchi described his initial Pakistan trip as "very fruitful" but signalled scepticism over Washington's intentions, saying he had "yet to see if the U.S. is truly serious about diplomacy".

With the Minister bound for Russia, Iran's ISNA news agency quoted Tehran's Ambassador Kazem Jalali as saying: "The Foreign Minister will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday", adding that Mr. Araghchi would "consult Russian officials regarding the latest status of the negotiations, ceasefire, and surrounding developments".

Russia's Foreign Ministry confirmed on Sunday that Mr. Araghchi would travel to Moscow "with the aim of holding talks", the RIA Novosti news agency reported, without specifying with whom.

Sri Lanka seeks investors for loss-making Mattala airport built with loans from China

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has called for Expressions of Interest to run its loss-making international airport in Mattala, in the southern Hambantota district, with a Cabinet-appointed committee tasked with negotiating the deal with prospective domestic and foreign investors.

The Ministry of Ports and Civil Aviation, on behalf of Airport and Aviation Services, "invites proposals from prospective investors *i.e.* Companies, Corporations, Firms, and Joint Ventures" for investments to "utilise resources" of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA), according to an official statement.

The EOI, which includes airside, aerodrome and landside operations, is open to both domestic and international entities, the statement said.

Indo-Russian deal

India has in the past expressed interest to operate

A view of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport. The facility is yet to prove commercially viable since its launch in 2013. AFP

The airport has accumulated a net loss of nearly $130 million, according to the Auditor General

the airport in Mattala, which has made headlines as the 'world's emptiest airport', including through a joint venture with a Russian company. However, the proposals did not take off.

The Mattala airport was developed with a nearly $200-million Chinese loan by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who sought to develop his stronghold, along with other big ticket infrastructure projects such as the Hambantota port, also backed by the Chinese. However, the airport facility is yet to prove commercially viable since its launch in 2013.

It has recorded a cumulative loss amounting to nearly LKR 40 billion (roughly $130 million), the Auditor General's report said in 2024.

The airport currently has no scheduled flights but handles charter planes, officials said.

Ukraine marks Chernobyl anniversary amid Russia war

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of "nuclear terrorism" on Sunday, as Ukraine marked the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster amid deadly new drone attacks.

Five people were killed across Ukraine after Moscow launched more than 100 drones overnight, the latest in an almost nightly barrage the country has faced since the beginning of the war in 2022.

In a social media post marking the Chernobyl anniversary, Mr. Zelenskyy said Russia's invasion was "again bringing the world to the brink of a man-made

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

disaster". He highlighted how Russian drones regularly pass over Chernobyl and that one had hit its protective shell last year.

Any repairs to the massive metal outer structure are virtually impossible due to Russia's invasion, according to the environment group Greenpeace.

"The world must not allow this nuclear terrorism to continue, and the best way is to force Russia to stop its reckless attacks," he added.

Russia's nuclear agency Rosatom took over the plant in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia, Europe's biggest civilian nuclear power complex, after it was occupied by Russia. The plant is now in shutdown mode.

Including Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine has four nuclear power plants, which are vital for the country's power supplies.

The 1986 explosion at Chernobyl was the worst civilian nuclear disaster in history and changed global perceptions of atomic energy.

Mali Minister killed; coordinated rebel, jihadist attacks rock junta

Agence France-Presse
BAMAKO

Mali's Defence Minister died after an attack on his house, his family said on Sunday, as the Army fought a second day of battles with jihadist fighters and separatist rebels near the capital Bamako and other cities, putting the Sahel nation's ruling junta under severe pressure.

Defence Minister Sadio Camara, his second wife and two of his grandchildren died after a car bomb attack on his home in the junta stronghold of Kita, his family said.

Saturday's shock attacks, synchronised by Tuareg rebels of the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) coalition and the jihadist Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), targeted several areas in the vast arid country.

Tuareg rebels said it allowed Russian forces backing Mali's Army to withdraw from the city of Kidal, which they claimed was under their control.

Mali has been ravaged for more than a decade by internal conflict but Saturday's attacks were the worst since 2020, when the junta seized power.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres condemned the "acts of violence" and called for international support to meet humanitarian needs.

Maharashtra University Of Health Sciences, Nashik
Dindori Road, Mhasrul, Nashik-422004
Phone No. 0253-2539236
Email: registrar@muhs.ac.in, civil@muhs.ac.in, Website: http://www.muhs.ac.in

E-tender Notice No-Civil/ 02/2026

Maharashtra University of Health Sciences invites e-tenders for providing temporary services of skilled and unskilled manpower by the contractor on contractual basis for Housekeeping Services in MUHS Campus, Nashik for a period of two years.

The e-tender form, form fee, earnest money, terms and conditions are published on the website **http://mahatenders.gov.in** The actual work should be inspected before submitting the e-tender.

Sd/-
Registrar

Date: 27.04.2026

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2626/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001497)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 220/132/33kV PM Mitra Textile Park sub-station, Tal. & Dist.- Amravati along with construction of 220 KV DCDC line from proposed 400/220 kV Nandgaon Peth s/s with HPC conductor – 5.68 km under Amravati zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from **23.04.2026**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indra Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302004

No. f.6( )JDA/DC-STORE/Cleaning Work/2026-27/D-129 Dated: 23.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: No. f.6( )JDA/DC-STORE/Cleaning Work/2026-28/D-

Online Bids are invited for "Cleaning Work" up-to 13.05.2026 till 6:00 PM. The estimated cost of work is Rs. 3,00,00,000/- (Three Hundred Lakhs only). The last date for applying for Bid and making Online Payment on JDA Portal is 13.05.2026 by 6:00 PM. details may be seen in the Bidding Document available on www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN No. JDA2627WSOB00029

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in, For participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit, online only.

2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Dy. Commissioner (Store)

Raj.Samwad/C/26/1531

THE HINDU GROUP

ALREADY AHEAD OF HIS TIME

SPORTSTAR
FIFA World Cup 2026 without a broadcaster in India
POSTER R. VAISHALI
HERE COMES THE SUN
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a kid among men, not out of place

The numbers tell one story. The manner tells another. In just six IPL games, Sooryavanshi has shown a fearlessness that makes his rise feel less surprising, more inevitable.

ON STANDS NOW!

Also inside:
Rachin Ravindra on patience during IPL, and Vaishali and Sindarov seize defining moments at the Candidates to step firmly into world championship contention.

Pick up your copy of
SPORTSTAR
#ALLINFORSPORTS

Scan or visit **newsth.live/SSSUB** to subscribe and read the latest edition: **'HERE COMES THE SUN'**

A LANDMARK

Samson scores 5,000 runs in the IPL, enters an elite club

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Chennai Super Kings wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson breached the 5,000-run mark in IPL in the match against Gujarat Titans in Chennai on Sunday. He is the 10th batter to achieve the feat and his tally includes five hundreds and 26 half-centuries. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma lead the run-scorers list.

SLOW BURN

Ruturaj ties with Dwayne Bravo for second-most dot balls played

R. RAGU

The 30 dot balls played out by Ruturaj Gaikwad on Sunday is the joint second-most by a batter in an innings in the IPL. Dwayne Bravo also failed to score off 30 deliveries during his unbeaten 70 off 59 for MI against KXIP in 2009. Shikhar Dhawan (PBKS) holds the record for the most dot balls (31 vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad, 2023).

BIZARRE

Raghuvanshi is the fourth to be dismissed Obstructing The Field

R.V. MOORTHY

Angkrish Raghuvanshi became the fourth player to be dismissed Obstructing The Field in the IPL. Yusuf Pathan was the first (Kolkata Knight Riders vs. Pune Warriors India, 2013), followed by Amit Mishra (Delhi Capitals vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad, 2019) and Ravindra Jadeja (Chennai Super Kings vs. Rajasthan Royals, 2024).

REAPING THE FRUITS

Mohsin says he worked a lot on fitness in the off-season

R.V. MOORTHY

I worked a lot (on my fitness) in the off-season. Body feels good and everything feels nice. Felt the slower one could be useful. I am working on my body and want to stay fit and healthy, and keep playing matches — LSG's left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan after his five-wicket haul against KKR on Sunday.

Rabada and Sai Sudharsan hog the limelight as Titans tame Super Kings

The pacer, along with new-ball partner Siraj, restricts the home team to 158 for seven; the left-handed opener makes it a cakewalk for the visitor with a 46-ball 87; skipper Ruturaj wages a lone battle for the Chennai outfit on an uneven wicket; the Men in Yellow play out a staggering 66 dot balls

IPL-19

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

A day after 986 runs were scored in the two IPL matches played in Delhi (Delhi Capitals vs. Punjab Kings) and Jaipur (Rajasthan Royals vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad), Sunday's fixture between Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Titans felt like a palate cleanser for fans who were recovering from the gluttony of fours and sixes they were served.

In a game that seemed like an aberration in the world of T20 cricket, the Titans bowlers, especially the pacers, had the Super Kings batters hopping on a challenging surface and set up a comfortable eight-wicket win for their side here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

Opting to field, Kagiso Rabada (4-0-25-3) and Mohammed Siraj (4-0-23-1) produced a superb display of accurate fast bowling in the PowerPlay to restrict the Super Kings to a modest total of 158 for seven. For CSK, Ruturaj Gaikwad waged a lone battle, scoring an unbeaten 74 (60b, 6x4, 4x6) on a two-paced pitch.

Titan's pursuit was guided by local boy B. Sai Sudharsan, who backed up his century from the previous game with a fine 87 (46b, 4x4, 7x6). The left-hander drove well, pulled the half-trackers over the ropes and chipped away at the target meticulously.

Once he crossed 50, Sai Sudharsan floored the pedal, smacking five out of his seven sixes as Shubman Gill's men cantered home in 16.4 overs. The fate of the contest, though, was sealed in the afternoon when Rabada broke the back of the host's batting in the PowerPlay (3-0-16-2).

The South African had the in-form Sanju Samson caught behind, and three balls later, dismissed Urvil Patel.

Siraj then inflicted further damage when he bounced out Impact Player Sarfaraz Khan for a golden duck. From there, the runs just dried up for CSK, who crawled to 28 for three at the end of six overs.

For a period of 31 balls, there were no boundaries, and the Men in Yellow played out a staggering 66 dot balls, including 38 in the first half.

Ruturaj accelerated towards the end, scoring his last 54 runs off just 23 balls. But by then, the damage had been done for the five-time champion, which slumped to its fifth defeat in eight matches.

Showing the way: Sai Sudharsan took control of the chase after Rabada pushed Super Kings on the back foot. R. RAGU & PTI

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Sanju Samson c Buttler b Rabada 11 *(15b, 2x4)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 74 *(60b, 6x4, 4x6)*, Urvil Patel c Holder b Rabada 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Sarfaraz Khan **(Impact Player for Urvil)** c Buttler b Siraj 0 *(1b)*, Dewald Brevis c Gill b Suthar 2 *(9b)*, Shivam Dube b Arshad 22 *(17b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Kartik Sharma c Holder b Rabada 15 *(9b, 3x4)*, Jamie Overton c Shahrukh b Arshad 18 *(6b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Akeal Hosein (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-10): 12; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-21 (Samson, 3.3 overs), 2-25 (Urvil, 3.6), 3-26 (Sarfaraz, 4.4), 4-37 (Brevis, 8.2), 5-96 (Dube, 15.3), 6-122 (Kartik, 17.5), 7-143 (Overton, 18.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-23-1, Rabada 4-0-25-3, Suthar 3-0-22-1, Holder 4-0-22-0, Arshad 4-0-43-2, Rashid 1-0-21-0.

GUJARAT TITANS
B. Sai Sudharsan c Brevis b Akeal 87 *(46b, 4x4, 7x6)*, Shubman Gill st. Samson b Noor 33 *(23b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 39 *(30b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for two wkts. in 16.4 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-58 (Gill, 6.2), 2-155 (Sai Sudharsan, 16.2).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Akeal 3.4-0-46-1, Kamboj 3-0-16-0, Overton 2-0-28-0, Gurjapneet 3-0-36-0, Noor 4-0-29-1, Dube 1-0-7-0.

Toss: Gujarat Titans.
Player-of-the-Match: Rabada.
Titans won by eight wickets with 20 balls remaining.

Next assignment

GT: April 30 vs. **RCB**
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: May 2 vs. **MI**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

It's been one step forward, two steps back: Fleming

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' season continues to swing frustratingly out of rhythm, with its campaign hitting another bump following a home defeat to Gujarat Titans in IPL 2026 on Sunday.

In a tournament where momentum is everything, CSK has found itself chasing it more often than having it.

Head coach Stephen Fleming acknowledged the side's inconsistency, while also pointing to the challenging surface and demanding early conditions that made stroke-making difficult.

"It's definitely a tough one. Batting was extremely challenging; it looked difficult even from the outside," Fleming said.

"I don't want to sound like I'm making excuses, but the first 10 overs were particularly tough.

"Their bowlers made the most of it, generating extra bounce and exploiting the moisture in the pitch, which created problems for us. We couldn't build any momentum until the final few overs."

Fleming also admitted that the team fell short in executing its plans. "Some of it was due to our own shortcomings," he added. Despite the stuttering campaign, Fleming struck a cautiously optimistic tone ahead of the upcoming games.

"We need to keep being positive. It's been one step forward, two steps back as of now. If that pattern continues, hopefully the next step is a win," he said with a smile.

"It's a very tight competition – the toughest in the world – but that won't stop us from staying positive and looking forward to the next game."

GT all-rounder Jason Holder, meanwhile, praised the impact of the new-ball pair, Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada.

"We felt there was a lot in the wicket. There was moisture and some steep bounce early on, which really helped us.

"Both Rabada and Siraj were outstanding and that created a lot of problems for them".

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	7	6	0	1	13	1.333
Royal Challengers	7	5	2	0	10	1.101
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	0	10	0.602
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	0	8	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.184
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

Rinku and Narine do the star turn as Knight Riders clinch Super Over thriller

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

In an attempt to keep their campaigns alive, Lucknow Super Giants and Kolkata Knight Riders - two bottom-placed teams - played the first Super Over of the IPL 2026 with the visiting team ending on the right side of the result here on Sunday.

Sunil Narine removed Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram as Super Giants only managed one run before Rinku Singh completed the formality, finishing the game with a boundary off the first ball.

Last-ball six

The match got tied when both teams finished at 155 after Mohammed Shami hit a last-ball six off Kartik Tyagi, who was defending 16 in the final over.

None of the teams was in complete control of the game during the second innings as Super Giants lost wickets regularly, while a collective bowling effort kept Knight Riders in the hunt. Rishabh Pant top-scored with a 38-ball 42 but didn't find much support from the rest of the batters. Impact Substitute Himmat Singh scored 19 off 10, including two fours and a six, to bring LSG close, but KKR managed to keep itself alive when he was caught in the last over.

Field day: Rinku was in the thick of action, coming to KKR's rescue with a fighting knock and superb catching. R.V. MOORTHY

Impact Index

1 Gill and Sai Sudharsan, with their 19th 50-plus partnership in 40 innings, went past Rohit and Ishan (18 in 54) for the most by an Indian pair

1 Ruturaj scored the slowest half-century (49 deliveries) in the Impact Player (IP) era (since 2023)

2 Super Kings registered the second-lowest PowerPlay total (28/3) this season after Sunrisers (22/3 vs. LSG)

2 CSK used the IP option within the first four overs of a contest for the second time this season (Sarfaraz for Mhatre vs. RR)

4 Ruturaj (100) became the fourth after Dhoni (234), Raina (180) and Dube (105) to hit 100 or more sixes for CSK

8 Sai Sudharsan's 75-plus scores in his first 50 visits to the crease in the league. Only Gayle (14) has more

9 Rabada's wickets in the PowerPlay, the most this season

12 The dozen overs Super Kings took to reach 50, the slowest in this edition. It was also their second slowest to the mark (12.1 overs vs. RCB, 2011)

13 Sai Sudharsan's 50-plus scores since 2024. Kohli (17) leads the charts

3555 Sanju Samson is the third fastest (by deliveries) to 5000 runs. Only de Villiers (3288) and Warner (3554) have been quicker

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Earlier, Mohsin Khan's deceptiveness outsmarted KKR batters before Rinku's solo effort took his team to a competitive total.

Rinku hit four consecutive sixes off Digvesh Rathi in the last over to take 26 runs, after hammering 17 off Mohammed Shami. The KKR vice-captain moved from 53 off 42 to finish unbeaten on 83 off 51 balls.

His innings came at the back of a poor start after being put into bat on a black-soil surface. Mohsin had Tim Seifert caught at short cover before he deceived Ajinkya Rahane with an off-cutter. In the following over, Angkrish Raghuvanshi was adjudged obstructing the field. Mohsin returned to remove Rovman Powell.

Just when Cameron Green and Rinku looked to revive the innings, Mohsin had the former caught before completing his five-wicket haul, removing Anukul Roy for a duck.

LSG bowlers did well until the 18th over to keep the scoring rate in check before Rinku gave KKR some breathing space, enough to get his side a second win.

The week ahead: April 27: DC vs. RCB (Delhi), 7.30 p.m.; **April 28:** PBKS vs. RR (New Chandigarh), 7.30 p.m.; **April 29:** MI vs. SRH (Mumbai), 7.30 p.m.; **April 30:** GT vs. RCB (Ahmedabad), 7.30 p.m.; **May 1:** RR vs. DC (Jaipur), 7.30 p.m.; **May 2:** CSK vs. MI (Chennai), 7.30 p.m.; **May 3:** SRH vs. KKR (Hyderabad), 3.30 p.m.; **May 3:** GT vs. PBKS (Ahmedabad), 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Ajinkya Rahane c Markram b Mohsin 10 *(15b, 1x6)*, Tim Seifert c Mukul b Mohsin 0 *(3b)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi Obstructing The Field 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Cameron Green c Pant b Mohsin 34 *(21b, 3x6)*, Rovman Powell c Pant b Mohsin 1 *(4b)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 83 *(51b, 7x4, 5x6)*, Anukul Roy c Badoni b Mohsin 0 *(1b)*, Ramandeep Singh c Marsh b Linde 6 *(11b)*, Sunil Narine (not out) 4 *(6b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-3 (Seifert, 1.6 overs), 2-16 (Rahane, 3.4), 3-27 (Raghuvanshi, 4.6), 4-31 (Powell, 6.1), 5-73 (Green, 10.5), 6-73 (Anukul, 10.6), 7-93 (Ramandeep, 14.6).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-34-0, Mohsin 4-1-23-5, Prince 4-0-24-0, Digvesh 4-0-46-0, Linde 2-0-18-1, Markram 2-0-9-0.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Aiden Markram c Rinku b Green 31 *(27b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mitchell Marsh c Powell b Vaibhav 2 *(3b)*, Rishabh Pant c Seifert b Narine 42 *(38b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Nicholas Pooran c Narine b Varun 9 *(12b, 1x6)*, Ayush Badoni c Anukul b Varun 24 *(19b, 2x6)*, Mukul Choudhary c Rinku b Anukul 1 *(2b)*, Himmat Singh **(Impact Player for Mohsin)** c Rinku b Tyagi 19 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, George Linde c Rinku b Vaibhav 8 *(4b, 2x4)*, Mohammed Shami (not out) 11 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Prince Yadav (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-2, w-3): 8; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Marsh, 1.1), 2-65 (Markram, 10.2), 3-78 (Pant, 12.2), 4-89 (Pooran, 13.6), 5-93 (Mukul, 15.2), 6-120 (Badoni, 17.3), 7-129 (Linde, 18.2), 8-148 (Himmat, 19.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Anukul 2-0-19-1, Vaibhav 4-0-24-2, Green 2-0-12-1, Narine 4-0-23-1, Varun **(Impact Player for Raghuvanshi)** 4-0-33-2, Tyagi 4-0-41-1.

Toss: Super Giants.
Match tied.
Super Over: Lucknow Super Giants 1/2 in 0.3 overs lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 4/0 in 0.1 over.
Player-of-the-Match: Rinku.

Next assignment

KKR: May 3 vs. **SRH**
Hyderabad, 3.30 p.m.

LSG: May 4 vs. **MI**
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m

In Kohli's backyard, RCB holds all the aces against host DC

Bethell set to get another opportunity at the top for the defending champion; Axar & Co. in desperate need of a win to get the campaign back on track after failing to defend 264 against PBKS

Fine-tuning: Padikkal will look to weigh in with big runs for RCB. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IPL-19

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' performance against Punjab Kings on Saturday had the fluctuations of a volatile stock market. So wildly did it oscillate from the sublime to the ridiculous, as an exemplary batting effort to amass 264 for two – DC's highest total in IPL history– was followed by a horror show with the ball and in the field. While the bowling appeared rudderless on a pitch that played better than expected, the malaise of dropped catches spread like wildfire, allowing Shreyas Iyer and Prabhsimran Singh to make merry with half-centuries.

Today's match

DELHI CAPITALS vs. RCB

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 34

DC 13 | RCB 20 | NR 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by six wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Dispiriting as that was, Axar Patel's men have little time to contemplate, given that they run into another formidable opponent in Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday.

Besides Royal Challengers oozing with confidence after five wins from seven matches, Capitals' task is compounded by the likelihood of the defending champion enjoying a lion's share of the support. Virat Kohli, the one constant in RCB's ever-evolving set-up, may no longer be living here, but residents of the national capital continue to exhibit fierce loyalty to a superstar whose formative years can be traced to the by-lanes of west Delhi.

More importantly, the 37-year-old is showing no sign of slowing down in white-ball cricket. Despite prolonged breaks from competitive cricket following his Test retirement last year, his impact for the southern franchise hasn't dimmed in the slightest – 328 runs in seven innings at 54.66 is proof.

The former skipper will be given company by Jacob Bethell at the top of the order. With Phil Salt yet to recover from injury, Bethell, who was drafted in for the last game, will get another chance to step up.

Other than that, RCB's combination looks well-settled. The same cannot be said of Capitals, who are in desperate need of a win to shrug off Saturday's erratic display.

Krunal changing the landscape of finger-spin in IPL: Karthik

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

For the sake of convenience mostly, Krunal Pandya is classified as a left-arm orthodox spinner. But what leaves his left arm at the point of delivery doesn't always qualify as orthodox or even spin.

The variance in length can be extreme, with his repertoire including a sharp bouncer as well as the ball in the block-hole. Add his occasional low-arm release to the mix and he is able to keep the batters guessing in a format where his brethren of finger-spinners increasingly appear redundant.

The 35-year-old's methods may not necessarily please the classical practitioners of the craft from yesteryear, but he is seeking effectiveness rather than endorsement.

Bag of tricks: Krunal has been a key player for RCB. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The unique approach is bearing fruit for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Having taken 17 wickets for the title-winning outfit last season, Krunal has claimed eight scalps in seven matches in 2026.

Dinesh Karthik, RCB's batting coach and mentor, feels the southpaw is redefining the rules of finger-spin.

"He is a player that this game is going to remember for a long time because he is doing something that has not been done before. He's pushing the boundaries of what a finger-spinner means," Karthik told reporters on Sunday.

"He's bowling deliveries that people really couldn't fathom a few years ago and he's using them very cleverly. He's not someone who's just doing it because it looks cool. He knows that it does create a doubt in the batter.

"He is a trend-setter. IPL is changing the landscape of cricket and Krunal is changing the landscape of finger-spin bowling," the former wicketkeeper-batter added.

I think he's my new favourite player: Cummins all praise for Suryavanshi

Pranay Rajiv
JAIPUR

Despite scoring a stunning 36-ball hundred, Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Suryavanshi ended on the losing side on Saturday in an IPL 2026 game, after Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma orchestrated a masterful Sunrisers Hyderabad chase.

Nevertheless, with his blazing ton at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here in Jaipur, Suryavanshi earned himself a brand-new admirer – SRH skipper Pat Cummins. "Yeah, I think he's my new favourite player. He hits the ball so hard, and it's great to watch. It's good fun," said Cummins in the post-match press conference.

Earlier in the day, as the Aussie pacer ran into bowl to Suryavanshi in the second over – their first-ever meeting – the Royals opener was in scorching touch.

Up, up and away: Cummins is all praise for Suryavanshi, despite being at the receiving end of his electric batting. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

He had just torn into Praful Hinge in the first over, belting him for four consecutive sixes, to four parts of the ground – a pull, a whip of the pads and two sumptuous lofted drives past long on and long off.

The SRH skipper had parked two fielders in the leg-side outposts and dished out a shortish delivery, sliding it away from Suryavanshi.

The seemingly obvious trap had no impact on the Royals opener. Without even retreating fully to his back foot, he flat-batted the ball for a six in front of the leg-side square.

"You've got to be right on the money as a bowler, because if you're not, it's going a long way. He's impressive. He's had a great start to his career. I like the way he plays," admitted Cummins.

Fantastic finish: Ham completed a famous wire-to-wire victory on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ham keeps John at bay to take the honours

SINGAPORE OPEN

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

The final round of the Singapore Open on Sunday witnessed thrills and spills galore. But overnight topper Jeongwoo Ham of South Korea kept his composure in the crunch, warding off a spirited challenge from Australian Cameron John, to walk away with the title. By taking up the top two spots on the leaderboard, Ham and John also booked their tickets to The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in Southport later this year.

Among Indians, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Pukhraj Singh Gill had contrasting outings at the par-71 Sentosa Golf Club Serapong course to finish tied-26th.

Ham, who entered the last leg of the International Series event with a four-stroke advantage, saw his lead cut down to a solitary shot at one point as John tried to give the Korean a run for his money. The trophy chasers and other challengers had to be locked in for longer than expected after rain threatened an anticlimactic end to a gripping finale.

Play was halted for more than three and a half hours and once action resumed, Ham did enough – three-under 68 for a total of 16-under 268 – to secure a wire-to-wire two-shot victory. The 31-year-old, who slipped up with a double bogey on the third hole, produced three birdies on the back nine.

John managed a 66 (overall 270) that included three successive birdies between holes 12 and 14 after the turn. Bhullar carded 73 (total of 280) after four bogeys on the front nine and a double bogey on hole 15.

Pukhraj, on the other hand, jumped from T45, thanks to a 67 effort that comprised five birdies and a bogey. Karandeep Kochhar, the other Indian who made the cut, came 70th with 76 (overall 295).

Top scores: 1. Jeongwoo Ham (Kor) (64-68-68-68) 268; 2. Cameron John (Aus) (70-67-67-66) 270; 3. Josele Ballester (Esp) (68-72-69-66) 275, Jazz Janewattananond (Tha) (68-66-73-68) 275, Tomohiro Ishizaka (Jpn) (67-68-70-70) 275.

(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of The International Series)

Kwizera blazes to TCS World 10K Bengaluru record

That winning feeling: Kwizera claims the international men's category. Also taking top spot are Niyonkuru (international women), Harmanjot and Sanjivni (Indian men and women). SUDHAKARA JAIN

ATHLETICS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Rodrigue Kwizera blitzed through the field to set a new men's event record at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026 here on Sunday.

Kwizera stepped on the pedal in the final stretch to finish with a timing of 27:31s, well under the previous mark of 27:38 set by Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli in 2022.

Kwizera, who missed the top spot to Kenya's Sebastian Sawe in a photo finish here three years ago, won $34,000 (including the event record bonus of $8,000).

Acceleration

The Burundi runner accelerated at the 8km mark – after passing the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium – to pull away from his rivals.

Kwizera kept a high pace in the long straight finish on Cubbon Road to eclipse Kimeli's record.

"The challenge was the heat. I have been training in Spain, where it is much cooler this time of the year. Today, I told myself that I will push at the 5K mark, and again in the final kilometre.

"I wanted to go for the event record; I am glad I did it," Kwizera said.

Stiff challenge

Rwanda's Florence Niyonkuru overcame a stiff challenge from favourite Brenda Jepchirchir to claim the international women's title.

At the 7km stage, it was Florence, Brenda, Ethiopian Melal Biratu and Kenya's Judy Chepaskwony who formed the leader pack.

Florence took over in the last right turn, at the Cubbon Park metro station.

Now on her own, Florence eased off and missed the event record (30:35, Irene Cheptai, 2022) by ten seconds.

The Rwanda athlete took home $26,000.

Harmanjot Singh and Sanjivani Jadhav recorded the best timings among Indian men and women respectively.

Harmanjot clocked 29:13, falling short of the Indian record by just one second.

"I had the event record in mind. I tried to stay with the international elite pack as far as I could, which was till 5K. After that, I decided to rely on my own judgement," Harmanjot said.

Sanjivani, the 2017 Asian Championships 5,000m bronze medallist, took top Indian honours here for a third time in a row.

Harmanjot and Sanjivani won ₹3,00,000 and ₹2,75,000 respectively.

The results:

International: Men: 1. Rodrigue Kwizera (Burundi) 27:31; 2. Harbert Kibet (Uganda) 27:39; 3. Gilbert Kipkosgei Kiprotich (Kenya) 27:43s.

Women: 1. Florence Niyonkuru (Rwanda) 30:45; 2. Brenda Jepchirchir (Kenya) 30:59; 3. Chaltu Dida Diriba (Ethiopia) 31:03.

Indian (winners only):

Men: Harmanjot Singh 29:13.

Women: Sanjivani Jadhav 35:01.

Sawe becomes first man to run a marathon under two hours

Reuters
LONDON

Kenya's Sabastian Sawe became the first man to run a marathon in under two hours when he won the London Marathon in one hour, 59m and 30seconds on Sunday.

The 31-year-old shattered the world record held by the late Kelvin Kiptum who set a time of 2:00:35 at the Chicago Marathon in October 2023.

Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia was second in his debut with 1:59.41, while Jacob Kiplimo of Uganda took bronze in 2:02.28.

Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia broke her own women's only world record en route to victory. The 29-year-old pulled away from Kenyans Hellen Obiri and Joyciline Jepkosgei down the home stretch to cross the finish line in 2:15.41 seconds, beating the record of 2:15.50 she set last year in London.

Obiri was second in 2:15.53, while Jepkosgei took the bronze in 2:15.55.

Blistering runs: Sawe and Assefa produced the best-ever times while winning the London Marathon. AFP

SNAPSHOTS

Abhay betters u-20 200m Natl. record

TUMAKURU: Reliance's Abhay Singh broke the under-20 men's 200m National record at the 24th u-20 Federation athletics competition on Sunday. Abhay came home in 20.82s, bettering Shanmuga Srinivasan's previous best of 21.02s set in 2021.

The results (winners only):

Men: 200m: Abhay Singh (Reliance), 20.82s (NR; OR: Shanmuga Srinivasan, 21.02, 2021); **800m:** Mogali Venkatram (AP), 1:49.02; **400m hurdles:** Jashanpreet Singh (Pun), 51.80; **3000m steeplechase:** Sumit Rathee (Har), 9:28.04; **High jump:** Basant (Navy), 2.21m; **Triple jump:** P. Royshan (TN), 15.75; **Javelin:** Rohan Yadav (NCOE, Patiala), 73.37; **Discus:** Nishchay (Har), 57.02.

Women: 200m: Bhoomika Nehate (Mah), 24.21s; **800m:** Nagini (Kar), 2:12.06; **400m hurdles:** Tanu Chaudhary (UP), 59.38; **3000m steeplechase:** Mansi Yadav (Mah), 11:10.59; **High jump:** Pooja (Har), 1.80m; **Triple jump:** Sadhana Ravi (TN), 12.97; **Javelin:** Poonam (JSW), 51.64; **Hammer throw:** Nandini (UP), 58.78.

Abhay. X@AFIINDIA

U.P. lifts men's jr. title

BHUBANESWAR: Uttar Pradesh took the men's junior team title in the National gymnastics championships.

The results: Team: Men: Junior: 1. Uttar Pradesh (Agrim Rawat, Harschit Damodaran, Hrigu Srivastava, Mohd. Zaid Ansari, Soham Sagar Atre, Vikas Yadav) 282.464, 2. Maharashtra (Adhyan Desai, Ayush Dalvi, Mayuresh Vartak, Nishad Narvane, Prasun Amalnerkar, Shreeyash Patil) 270.268, 3. West Bengal (Ayush Debnath, Premanshu Bera, Reetesh Debnath, Sk. Nabhigh Ali, Sohan Haque, Suman Dutta) 267.265.

LIVE TELECAST

Bangladesh vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

South Africa Women vs India Women: 5th T20I, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 5.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAMPATH Krishnan Muthuvel resident of E 7/3, DRDO Township Phase -1, CV Raman Nagar, BENGALURU-560 093 have changed my minor son's name whose date of birth is 5-4-2010 from S Arihant to Arihant Sampath vide affidavit date 24-04-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed.

I, GOUTHAM Kumar Mehta, R/at No.79, Laxmi Vatika, 1st Main, 2nd Stage, West of Chord Road, Mahalaxmipuram, Bengaluru-560086, have changed my name to Mithalal Goutham Kumar Mehta vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026 sworn before Notary Mamatha. N. K, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, B. GIRIJA Mother of Rajesh Babu. P presently residing at Vill Old Oriental Line, PO Coromandel TK Bangarpet, Dist Kolar, State Karnataka, Pin:563118 have changed my name and Date of Birth from B. Girija to Girija. B and Date of Birth is 04/08/1951 to 04/08/1955 vide affidavit dated 23/04/2026 before Notary Thangaraj. S, K G F.

TENDERS

E-AUCTION FOR DISPOSAL OF ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE CONDITIONED "TATA HITACHI HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR 220 LC, YEAR OF MFG-2026"

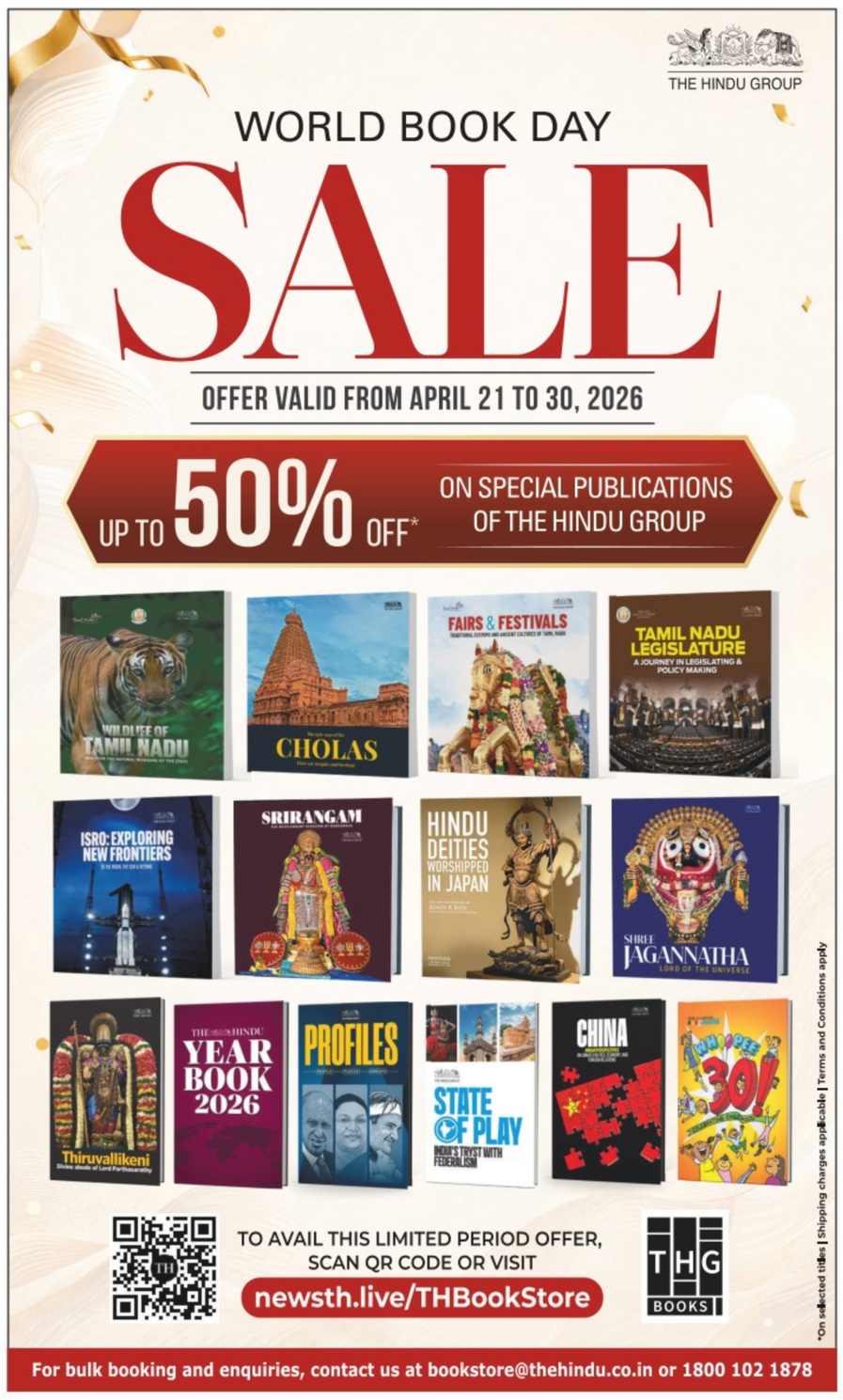
E- Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for Disposal of **ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE CONDITIONED "TATA HITACHI HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR 220 LC, YEAR OF MFG-2026"** on "Lot basis, strictly on **"As is Where is"** basis. Belonging to **M/s TATA Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Private Limited,** Salvage of the above material can be inspected lying at, **"PSN construction equipment Pvt. Ltd, No127/1, Hanchipura Village, Kasaba Hobali, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural-562123."** Between **27/04/2026 to 04/05/2026** (both inclusive), after taking prior appointment from Office- **Mob. +91 7889439702, +91 9601565994 & Mr. Venkatesh Sir (+91 7760075404).**

Above E-auction to be held on 05/05/2026

Contact - SALVAGE SOLUTIONS & RECYCLERS (AUCTIONEERS)
7889439702,96015 65994/
82380 69950, Address: FF 103 Arpan Complex, Nizampura, Vadodara, Gujarat 390024 India
www.salvagesolutions.co.in

Last date for Submission of E-auction Form & EMD is 04/05/2026 Before 05:00 PM

TO BOOK
THANKSGIVING
Advertisements
in
THE HINDU
Contact:
080 - 22071800 / 22864240
080 - 22071826 / 22071827
Rate per advertisement (3.5 X 5 cms) Rs. 790/-


THE HINDU GROUP
WORLD BOOK DAY
SALE
OFFER VALID FROM APRIL 21 TO 30, 2026
UP TO 50% OFF* ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE HINDU GROUP
WILDLIFE OF TAMIL NADU
CHOLAS
FAIRS & FESTIVALS
TAMIL NADU LEGISLATURE
A JOURNEY IN LEGISLATING & POLICY MAKING
ISRO: EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS
SRIRANGAM
HINDU DEITIES WORSHIPPED IN JAPAN
SHREE JAGANNATHA
LORD OF THE UNIVERSE
Thiruvallikeni
YEAR BOOK 2026
PROFILES
STATE OF PLAY
INDIA'S TRYST WITH FEDERALISM
CHINA
TO AVAIL THIS LIMITED PERIOD OFFER, SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT
newsth.live/THBookStore
THG BOOKS
*On selected titles | Shipping charges applicable | Terms and Conditions apply
For bulk booking and enquiries, contact us at bookstore@thehindu.co.in or 1800 102 1878

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

THE HINDU GROUP
Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Design and Investigation Division, Bannur, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka
PHONE AND FAX NO. 08227-275653
E-mail: eedidbannur@gmail.com

Tender notification No.02/2026-27,Dated: 22.04.2026 (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders have been invited for water management works from eligible registered contractors vide this office **Tender notification No.02/2026-27: Dated: 22.04.2026** for 05 works (**Minimum Estimated amount Rs.41.00 Lakhs and Maximum Estimated amount Rs 64.00 lakhs)** according to **"Supply of Manpower on The Quality and Cost Based selection (QCBS)** Tender Document". The dates for submission of tender and opening of the tender and other details can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal or from the office signed/- below.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL, D & I, Division, Bannur.

DIPR/DDMYS/94/KSMCA/083/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZH//SEE(O)/AEE-3/F-T2, TSS-13/2026-27/926-29 Date: 24.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites tenders through KPP portal mode for the following works on **TTK basis.**

Name of the work : (1) Combined package for **replacement of existing age old C&R panels** of Power Transformers & 33kV lines by new C&R panels at **Neralekere** 110/11kv sub-station, **Lingadahalli** 66/11kv sub-station, **Balehonnur** 66/33/11kv sub-station, **Tarikere** 110/11kv sub-station in Operation Division, Chikkamagaluru -CALL4. **Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3412 CALL-2. (2)** Providing Metering & Protection to 110kV incoming line bay at **Tangli 110/11kV sub-station** in Kadur nodal center of Chikkamagaluru Operation Division. **Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/EL/ WORK_INDENT 3444 CALL-2.**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"Tenders"** on or after **27.04.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573201.

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029. Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ CFPR - IE4 Motors/02314/2026-27 Date: 24-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bengaluru invites Short term Tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Supply of IE4 Motors to Cattle Feed Plant, Rajankunte	1 Job	55,000/-	3 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **27-04-2026 to 04-05-2026 up to 4.00 PM**
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: **04-05-2026 up to 4.00 PM**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **05-05-2026 at 4:30 PM.**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP Portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029. Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Printing job work/02240/2026-27 Date: 24-04-2026

SHORT TERM - TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short term tender through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested eligible firms may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Bi-Annual Rate contract for Rotogravure Printing Job & Packing of film at Nandini Packing Film Plant Munneklolala Bengaluru	1 Job	4,09,000/-	2 years

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 27-04-2026 to 06-05-2026 up to 4.00 PM
2. Pre Bid Meeting: 4-05-2026 at 11.30AM
3. Last date for Tender submission on date: 06-05-2026 up to 4.00 PM
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 07-05-2026 at 4:30 PM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP Portal only.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

THE HINDU GROUP
GIFT THEM LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES WITH 21ST CENTURY COMMUNICATION SKILLS
STEP LIVE Junior
NEXTGEN SOFT SKILLS
An interactive English learning course for kids from classes 4-7.
Coach your kids with 10 LIVE classes on various aspects of communication.
SPEAKING
Strategies to improve public speaking skills with focus on aspects such as persuasion, expression of emotions, etc.
WRITING
Best practices to improve writing structure and introduction to using tools like PowerPoint
LISTENING
Engaging exercises and activities to actively develop listening skills
PRACTICE
Practical tips and guidance to continue developing communication skills
Limited Seats!
Scan the QR code

THE HINDU GROUP
0% ASSUMPTIONS
100% CLARITY
A dedicated publication for our young readers, that beats the trap of doom scrolling with curiosity driven learning.
A new edition for teens
COMING SOON
TD

The smiles are back: Deepti is the toast of her teammates after picking up a wicket. X@BCCIWOMEN

Deepti to the fore as India pulls one back

The all-rounder marks her return to form with an unbeaten 36 and a maiden five-wicket haul in T20Is; Jemimah and Richa, too, chip in

INDIA IN SA

ANI
JOHANNESBURG

An all-round performance from Deepti Sharma set up India's 14-run win over South Africa in the fourth T20I at Johannesburg on Saturday.

Deepti's unbeaten 26-ball 36 and five-wicket haul marked her comeback after a lean patch.

Eliz-Mari Marx got Shafali Varma for a run-a-ball nine and Tumi Sekhukhune dismissed a fluent-looking Anushka Sharma for a 18-ball 27 after the home side opted to bowl.

India was 47 for two in the PowerPlay. It was Jemimah Rodrigues' 55-run partnership with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur which helped India reach the 100-run mark in 11 overs. But Jemimah (43, 29b, 4x4, 2x6), Bharti Fulmali (two) and Harmanpreet (22, 16b, 2x4, 1x6) fell in quick succession, reducing India to 120 for five in the 14th over.

Deepti and Richa Ghosh brought the much-needed momentum to the Indian innings.

Deepti smashed five fours, while Richa scored an unbeaten 18-ball 34 (5x4, 1x6) to take India to 185 for five. The duo's 65-run stand off 38 balls gave India a competitive target to defend.

In South Africa's chase, Sune Luus delivered a fine start from one end. But Kranti Gaud drew first blood by removing the in-form Laura Wolvaardt for 18 with the total on 32.

Luus put on a 44-run stand with Tazmin Brits, before Deepti had her first wicket of the evening. She removed Luus for 40 (24b, 54x, 1x6). South Africa collapsed from 76 for one to 135 for six in 15.5 overs.

The cream of the Proteas batting, including Brits (30), Annerie Dercksen (nine), Chloe Tryon (nine), back in the pavilion. The spinners continued to dominate as the Proteas were restricted to 171 for nine. Deepti (five for 19) was sensational with the ball, while Kranti, Kashvee Gautam, Shree Charani and Shafali claimed one wicket apiece.

The scores:

India 185/5 in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 43, Deepti Sharma 36 n.o., Richa Ghosh 34 n.o., Eliz-Mari Marx 2/28, Kayla Reyneke 2/10) bt South Africa 171/9 in 20 overs (Sune Luus 40, Tazmin Brits 30, Deepti Sharma 5/19).

Toss: SA; **PoM:** Deepti.

Indian women revive hopes with win over Ukraine

THOMAS AND UBER CUP

Press Trust of India
HORSENS (DENMARK)

The young Indian women's team received a massive morale boost with a commanding 4-1 victory over European Championship bronze medallist Ukraine in its second Group-A Uber Cup badminton clash here, bouncing back strongly after a narrow 2-3 loss to host Denmark in the opener.

India opted to rest former world champion P.V. Sindhu in singles, handing 2026 Thailand Masters champion Devika Sihag a chance in the third singles, and the youngster delivered. Unnati set the ball rolling with a 21-19, 22-20 win over Polina Buhrova before junior world championships silver medallist Tanvi Sharma doubled the lead by beating Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-12, 17-21, 21-10.

Focused: Tanvi doubled India's lead by defeating Kantemyr. X@BAI_MEDIA

Devika sealed the tie in emphatic fashion, putting the result beyond doubt with a 23-21, 21-13 victory over Mariia Stoliarenko.

India's only loss came in the first women's doubles where Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi lost 11-21, 17-21 against Buhrova and Kantemyr before Sindhu and Tanisha Crasto completed the scoreline with a 21-18, 21-15 win over Stoliarenko and Sofiia Lavrova.

India will now face formidable defending champion China in its final group match on Monday, with a win crucial to keeping alive its hopes of progressing to the quarterfinals.

The result:

Uber Cup:

India bt Ukraine 4-1 (Unnati Hooda bt Polina Buhrova 21-19, 22-20; Tanvi Sharma bt Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-12, 17-21, 21-10; Devika Sihag bt Mariia Stoliarenko 23-21, 21-13; Kavipriya Selvam & Simran Singhi lost to Buhrova & Kantemyr 11-21, 17-21; Tanisha Crasto & Sindhu bt Sofiia Lavrova & Stoliarenko 21-18, 21-15).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Happy moment: The winners in the Yonex-Sunrise Vivek Karan Memorial State-ranking badminton tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Harshad and Tanya emerge champions

Harshad Shadish and Tanya Hemanth won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise Vivek Karan Memorial State-ranking badminton tournament.

The results (finals):

Men: Singles: Harshad Shadish bt Rudra Shahi 21-16, 21-15; **Doubles:** M. Raghu & M. Rohith bt Ashith Surya & Vaibhaav 21-16, 21-15.

Women: Singles: Tanya Hemanth bt Hithaishree L. Rajaiah 21-10, 21-11; **Doubles:** Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam bt Amrutha Pramuthesh & Rashmi Ganesh 21-13, 27-29, 21-16.

Mixed doubles: Kishal Ganapathy & Neysa Cariappa bt Ganesh Vittalji & Jahnavi Shetty 21-12, 21-10.

Boys: Singles: Kaushik Reddy Veeram Reddy bt Harshad 21-13, 21-19.

Doubles: Amith Raj Natraj & K. Yadunandan bt S. Nischal & Yeshas M. Reddy 21-19, 21-7.

Girls: Singles: Disha Santosh bt Hithaishree L. Rajaiah 21-18, 21-6; **Doubles:** Nidhi Atmaram & Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt Sameeksha & Tanika Mohan 25-23, 21-17.

Mixed doubles: Amith Raj Natraj & Suhina Roy bt Eswar Sai Katam & Deborah John 21-16, 21-14.

BWF votes for a new scoring system

Agence France-Presse
KUALA LUMPUR

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) said it has "strengthened the sport" for the future after the governing body voted to change the scoring system in a major move.

First to 15 points

Currently matches are the best-of-three games with the winner of each game being the first to 21 points.

From January 2027, it will be the first to 15 points.

BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul called it an important milestone.

"We are building a sport that speaks to the next generation, while continuing to invest in the long-term future of our players," Leeswadtrakul said.

Atletico edges Bilbao; Inter held at Torino

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Alexander Sorloth struck twice as Atletico Madrid built confidence for its Champions League semifinal against Arsenal, with a 3-2 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday in LaLiga.

Arsenal also had a narrow 1-0 win over Newcastle in the Premier League earlier in the day.

Atletico is sitting fourth and 10 points clear of Real Betis in LaLiga. Its hopes of silverware this season are pinned on a potential first ever Champions League triumph.

Inter Milan was held to a 2-2 draw at Torino on Sunday, with the Serie A leader letting slip a two-goal lead and leaving the title race ticking over. Borussia Dortmund cruised to a 4-0 home win over Freiburg in the Bundesliga on Sunday to lock in Champions League qualification for next season.

The results: LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 3 (Camello 30, Lejeune 84, Alemao 90+9) drew with Real Sociedad 3 (Oyarzabal 22, 76-pen, Oskarsson 63).

Serie A: Fiorentina 0 drew with Sassuolo 0; Genoa 0 lost to Como 2 (Douvikas 10, Diao 68); Torino 2 (Simeone 70, Vlasic 79-pen) drew with Inter Milan 2 (Thuram 23, Bisseck 61).

Bundesliga: Stuttgart 1 (Demirovic 61) drew with Werder Bremen 1 (Stage 18); Borussia Dortmund 4 (Beier 8, Guirassy 14, Bensebaini 32, Silva 87) bt Freiburg 0.

On Saturday: LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 3 (Griezmann 49, Sorloth 54, 90+3) bt Athletic Bilbao 2 (Paredes 23, Guruzeta 90+7).

Serie A: Parma 1 (Elphege 82) bt Pisa 0; Bologna 0 lost to Roma 2 (Malen 7, El Aynaoui 45+1).

SNAPSHOTS

India finishes on top

CAIRO: Hemant Burman won the men's 50m rifle 3 positions silver while Zuhair Khan and Addya Katyal won the trap mixed team event bronze as India topped the ISSF junior shooting World Cup with 16 medals, including five gold, six silver, five bronze.

Burman finished second with 351.7.

The 18-year-old had qualified for the final in seventh place with a score of 578-24x.

Zuhair and Addya secured bronze with a final score of 19 after qualifying for the medal round with a qualification score of 137.

Hemant Burman.

The pair, which was in the silver medal hunt after the first two series, faltered in the third with Addya missing four of her five shots and Zuhair missing one.

The shooters will now shift their focus to the ISSF junior World Championship, which will be held at Suhl, Germany, in June.

Mohammedan fights back to hold SC Delhi

NEW DELHI: Mohammedan SC came from behind twice to secure a 2-2 draw against Sporting Club Delhi in an ISL match on Sunday.

The hosts began on the front-foot and took the lead in the 17th minute when Mohammed Aimen drew a foul from goalkeeper Padam Chhetri.

Matija Babovic calmly converted the penalty.

The visitors' attacking intent was rewarded in the 40th minute when Thokchom Adison Singh went past the on-rushing goalkeeper Nora Fernandes and restored parity.

Sporting regained the lead in the 52nd minute through Babovic, but Mohammedan drew level once again when an unmarked Hira Mondal headed home Lalngaihsaka's cross.

The result: Sporting Club Delhi 2 (Babovic 17-pen, 52) drew with Mohammedan SC 2 (Adison Singh 40, Mondal 65).

आर्मर्ड व्हीकल्स निगम लिमिटेड
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
रक्षा मंत्रालय

ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CIN-U35990TN2021GOI14550

Advt. No. AVNLCO / HR / 2026 / 05
ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED EXPERTS / CONSULTANTS / ADVISORS

Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI) (AVNL) is a new Defence PSU with its headquarters at Avadi (Chennai). It has five (05) constituent production units and has around 12,000 employees. AVNL produces battle tanks i.e. T-72, T-90, MBT Arjun and Infantry Combat Vehicles, support vehicles (MPV, AERV etc.) and Defence mobility solutions (Stallion, LPTA etc.) for the armed forces and homelandsecurity agencies. It is the current market leader in this segment. It is a new Government Company with Great Future. It offers great work environment and challenging opportunities for the professionals to prove their mettle.

Applications are invited from professionals for the following position on Fixed Term Contract basis in AVNL Corporate Office, Avadi, Chennai – 600 054:

S. No	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCY	TOTAL REMUNERATION (PER MONTH)
1.	Expert (Security)	01 [UR]	Basic - Rs. 1,20,000/- + IDA as applicable Special Allowance – 5% of Basic Conveyance – Rs.20,000/- Medical – Rs.3000/-

The last date of receipt of application will be **15 Days** from the date of publication of this advertisement. This advertisement is indicative in nature. For further information please visit our AVNL website www.avnl.co.in under "Careers" for detailed job description, qualifications, experience, tenure, remuneration, procedure, application format, terms and conditions for applying for the said posts.

Note:
Any corrigendum / amendment in this advertisement will be published / uploaded on **AVNL website ONLY**. Candidates are requested to visit the website regularly for latest updates /corrigendum.

HR Division, AVNL CO
Email: tacp.avnl@avnl.co.in
Tele: :044 – 26843341/26844808

Chennai
Dated: 27.04.2026

यूको बैंक UCO BANK
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
सम्मान आपके विश्वास का Honours Your Trust

ANNUAL FINANCIAL RESULTS
Thank You
to Our Valued Customers, Dedicated Employees and Esteemed Stakeholders
For Your Unwavering Trust and Continued Support.
UCO MSME YUVA SHAKTI
Credit Facility Upto ₹50 Cr.
UCO m BANKING PLUS
ALL IN ONE APP FOR DIGITAL BANKING
UCO HOME LOAN @ 7.10%p.a.
UCO CAR LOAN @ 7.45%p.a.

Total Business 14.95% (Y-o-Y) | Advances 19.44% (Y-o-Y) | Deposit 11.59% (Y-o-Y) | CD Ratio 80.21% | CRAR 18.61% | PCR 97.32% | Net NPA 0.27% | GNPA 2.17%

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

₹ in Lakh

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	736522	813679	2974098	2947353
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	124711	103614	437349	383355
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	124711	103614	437349	383355
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	80115	65243	276786	244496
5.	Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	Refer Note 2			
6.	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1253956	1253956	1253956	1253956
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	1756007	1541844	1756007	1541844
8.	Securities Premium Account	504211	504211	504211	504211
9.	Net Worth	2446221	2110741	2446221	2110741
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.07
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.70	0.93	0.70	0.93
12.	Earning Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	1. Basic :	0.64	0.54	2.21	2.04
	2. Diluted :	0.64	0.54	2.21	2.04
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and yearly ended financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly and yearly ended financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and Bank's Website (www.uco.bank.in/investors) 2. Information relating to total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the bank.

For UCO Bank

Place : Kolkata
Dated : 25th April, 2026

Sd/- Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble, Executive Director
Sd/- Rajendra Kumar Saboo, Executive Director
Sd/- Ashwani Kumar, Managing Director & CEO
Sd/- Aravamudan Krishna Kumar, Chairman

Follow us | 1800 8910 (Toll free) | 7666399400 | 8334001234 | Missed Call for CKYC Card : 7799022129 | www.uco.bank.in